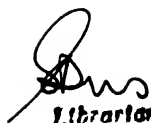


Battle of Rawul



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on to extermination against them, one ought not to shrink from paying tribute to the brave, though they be our foe. In the Rohillah one encounters an implacable antagonist. His life, his position, his faith, lead him to look upon death with cold and dignified indifference. He is a fatalist, and thus life or death are to him as one. If fate wills that he dies in the heat of battle, death has but unloaded him of his burden at the journey's end, that he may enjoy the best of rest—eternal luxury and sleepy beatitude.

To relate one little incident will suffice to show how these men face death and die upon the battle field.

In this encounter with the enemy and the Mahidpore Contingent, Doctor Orr of the Hyderabad Contingent came up with one of the Rohillahs who was dressed in a very superior manner. He was a fine fellow, and perhaps a leader. He was requested to surrender, this he refused to do ; he was then told that unless he did so, death would assuredly be his portion. At this he scoffed and boldly defied the officer to combat. Then ensued the struggle for life in deadly conflict, which he manfully maintained upon foot till the cold sharp spear of his antagonist pierced his breast ; he then fell upon the field, cast an agonised withering look of a still unvanquished spirit at his foe, threw his arm across his eyes, and

died without a groan ! The Rohillah affects to despise death,—his faith teaches him that to die thus is to enter at once into the elysium of the blest, where every sensual pleasure will be meted out to him in undying sunny ripeness. Cradled in war, nurtured in arms, imbued with a pompous sense of their all-saving faith for time and eternity, proud by nature, and daring by habit, it is no wonder he forms a figure of no mean type in our pictures of the battle-field, or a foe by no means despicable in single combat.

I have seen him rush into the jaws of death as boldly as though the shackles of “age, ache, penury, and imprisonment” had just been loosed, and a career as free and boundless as the wild horse’s were before him. Nor can we wonder at this, for Mahomet tells them in his Koràn, “the sword is the key of heaven and hell. A drop of blood shed in the cause of God, or one night spent in arms, is of more avail than two months in fasting and prayer. Whosoever falls in battle, his sins are forgiven ; at the day of judgment his wounds shall be resplendent as vermilion, and odorous as musk ; and the loss of his limbs shall be replaced by the wings of angels and cherubim.”

In our pursuit of the enemy we passed through the town of Taul in the little state of the Nawab of Jaôra. Here we learnt that they had departed

some hours prior to our approach, after having frightened the good folk there out of their senses.

The town was saved from loot or ransom by the enemy by a curious incident. They had determined to plunder the town or have 30 lacs of rupees paid to them, as ransom. A debate ensued among them as to whether they should accept 25 lacs—the sum offered by the people—or 30, the amount they demanded. The folk could or would only muster 25, the enemy had set their hearts upon 30, so they conferred, and quibbled, and argued until sunset, when the sound of a bugle was reported to the counsellors; this put a period to their deliberations, they struck their camp and fled, *minus* the ransom offered by the inhabitants, or the loot they intended to appropriate in its stead.

As we marched into Taul, the Nawab of Jaôra was there with an anxious retinue to welcome our presence. He was a fine young man in every sense of the word, very enlightened, and desirous to continue a friendship with us which had already lasted for years. He was well known to many of our force who had joined in the chase, the race, and festivities with him in former times. His liberality was as large as his purse, and every mile of his territory bore evidences of the wisdom of his rule. His villages were clean, well-built, and inhabited by people who furthered our progress with a willing,

unsparing hand. The difficulties these princes had to contend against were exceedingly trying at this season. The struggle between affection and duty ; the babble of deluded masses of dependants whose spirits were swollen and flushed by cunning and weaning promises of riches and power ; the importunities of unwise officials, and the dread of being alone and penniless, if perchance their British allies should be driven into the seas, were incentives strong enough to draw these lords of little principalities from the attraction of an apparently waning star into the fast increasing circle of satellites, then moving in erratic turbulence around the blazing meteor of rebellion.

Nor was it to be expected that these men *could* know how soon the orb then dazzling the moral heavens would sink dark and deep below the blood-stained horizon, and in its awful fall drag the lesser lights in its train down to worse than perdition.

To have placed implicit reliance upon our word *then* must have been a hard and trying exercise of faith, and, indeed, all who did so deserve no small encomium. If the British nation *can* accept a compliment, I think the adherence of these princes in such a season, surrounded as they were by sedition and conspiracy, was one of no mean character.

Only a few days prior to our entry into Jaôra, the fever of rebellion had struck the Court of the

Nawab, and carried away his *brother* and some thousands of armed followers. Hardly, indeed, must his trust in our truth and power have been tried; it was a fiery furnace through which they had to walk, and those who lacked faith were irreclaimably lost.

We were on the move again and fast nearing the city of Mundasore, and on 19th November we pitched our camp at Hernia on the banks of "the Chumbul." We were now only some 20 miles from a large force, as spies gave out, consisting of Mekranies, Rohillahs, Villayates, and mutinous sepoy, altogether about 5,000. They were reported to have got guns into position, and to be making 100 pounds of gunpowder daily, and best of all that they had determined to give us battle upon the open field. How they had come to this determination I cannot say. Another spy also informed us that they had given it out in Mundasore that they had defeated us at Dhar, and that they were now going to destroy utterly the few remaining of the "Feringhees" who had the temerity to follow them so far. And so I presume they paraded and stalked about the city and did as they generally do until they are ousted by an irresistible pressure from without. When we arrived at the beautiful river Chumbul, we expected a resistance from the opposite



banks ; but, no, there was this admirable barrier to the progress of a force left entirely to us, and we forthwith commenced crossing.

It was a business of no light nature, for the banks were rugged and almost perpendicular, the river very rapid and deep, and its bed broken by enormous boulders of basalt. The crossing of the force, ammunition, and baggage occupied us nearly two whole days. The sappers had to cut a road down the bank for the artillery and carriage, and again up the opposite bank, for the late rains had quite obliterated any former road.

I never saw a more animated and beautiful picture in my life than when our brigade crossed this river. The steep, verdant, shrubby banks covered with our varied forces, elephants, camels, horses, and bullocks ; the deep flowing clear river reaching on and on to the far east to the soft deep-blue tufted horizon ; the bubble and yelling of men, the lowing of the cattle, the grunting screams of the camels, and the trumpeting of the wary heavily-laden elephant ; the rattle of our artillery down the bank, through the river, and up the opposite side ; the splashing and plunging of our cavalry through the stream—neighing and eager for the green encamping ground before them ; and everybody so busy and jovial, streaming up from the deep water

to their respective grounds ; and all this in the face, almost, of an enemy, formed a *tableau vivant* never to be forgotten !

We halted a day after having crossed the river, and during this day the prisoners taken at Rawul were tried, sentenced, and executed. I remember at this time, so great was the indignation felt by us, that the question often asked was “ why take any prisoners ? ” They should all be slain in the heat of the fray, for Englishmen are prone to leniency in their calmer moments, and even a drum-head court-martial is not so awful a thing as it sounds.

To hamper a force with a large body of prisoners is doubtless a troublesome thing, and perhaps appears foolish, but we must remember that flesh and blood—even the hardy Anglo-Saxon’s—cannot go on slaying from sunrise to sunset. However willing the spirit may be, physical force cannot endure it. Soldierly tire in the limb after great exertion as well as other good people, and thus it happens after a battle, when the animal spirit is exhausted by heat and long-continued excitement, that many prisoners must be made.

Among the batch of prisoners now in camp was one who murdered the serjeant-major and his family at Mahidpore, and who boasted of it, too ; a boy of about fifteen, who endeavoured to betray Mrs. Timmins, the commandant’s wife ; and an *armless* man, on

whose person letters were found. This cripple from his mother's womb was their spy—a most unsuspecting character to look at, of course, but a better for a spy could not have been found. The child murderer was told he would be shot or hanged, to which he replied “*very* good, I don't care!” and was “sorry he could not kill more!”

A parade of the troops was ordered at 5 P.M. The prisoners—some 76—were brought up, ranged in one long line and blindfolded, then advanced dragoons upon foot, men of the 86th, and the ragged few of the Mahidpore Contingent who remained staunch, to within a couple of yards of them. Their sentence and the reasons thereof were then read aloud by Captain Coley, brigade-major. Then there was a wail and groaning from some, while others cried out to the last “*deen, deen!*” But their *deen-ing* soon ended, as the brigade-major rode past and said, “fire at the sound of the bugle!”

The bugle sounded! and a long rattle of musketry swept this fleshy wall of miscreants from their earthly existences. In one short moment they were no more than the clod they fell upon, and were covered by! The pale moon rose in silent beauty, and shone on our Sappers in coldly beams as they dug the mighty grave for their gory carcasses. The earth soon covered them, and our camp appeared as though no scene of blood had marked it; in a few

more hours the bugle and drum called us away to other scenes of danger and death. This was a terrible ensample, few soldiers had ever witnessed such a scene, still fewer, perhaps, will see its like again.

On the morning of the 21st November, we arrived at our encamping ground before Mundasore. Immediately in our front was high rising ground, and in front to the left of this a little village and gardens, beyond this several large topes, cultivated ground, and another village surrounded by gardens and trees ; on our right were hills and villages, and between these and the hill in our front was an extensive plateau covered here and there with acres of uncut grain, and beyond this the city of Mundasore. A reconnaissance was made while the camp was being pitched, and the men breakfasted. Our pickets occupied advanced positions in our front, and the village on our left. We could see the enemy mustering in force below the town, and their yellow and green flags waving about.

AFFAIR BEFORE MUNDASOORE.

There now appeared some chance of a little excitement and open fieldwork. About 1 P.M., just as we were all enjoying our breakfast, and speculating upon the probabilities of an engagement, the bugles sounded ! Breakfast and all the good things were

soon left to the care of servants, and every man buckled on his sword and pistol, as the various officers were calling out to their men to "fall in — fall in."

The jingling of the dragoons as they galloped past to the front, the dashing rumble of the artillery, the clinking of steel as the bright bayonets were fixed, the straggling sowars swiftly threading their way, spear in hand, to the front, and the dashing right and left, backwards and forwards, of the staff, gave an air of glancing brilliance most attractive to witness. Most of our force were the heroes of other battle-fields, and they emerged out of the apparent confusion of the camp in an order of battle array as pleasing as a picture.

The enemy had advanced in force upon our left, and occupied the village in which we had placed a small picket, who retired. They also formed up into two considerable masses upon the maidan, their left resting upon Mundasore. The Bengal battery, under Captain Hungerford, the Bombay battery, under Captain Woolcomb, were on our right centre, and the bullock battery of the H. C. on the left; the dragoons to our extreme right, the Hyderabad cavalry to our extreme left; the 86th and 25th regiments were in our centre; the Madras sappers and Hyderabad infantry, under Capt. Sinclair, were on the left of the Hyderabad guns, and opposite to

the village occupied by the enemy. The artillery worked away in a most animating style for some three quarters of an hour. Lieut. Strutt's shooting was very true. All the while this firing was going on at the village, a fine fellow, dressed in white, with a green flag, coolly walked out from the cover, and sauntered leisurely along the whole line of our guns, while round shot and shell were whizzing about him in awful proximity. He occasionally stooped down, but never attempted to run; he then quietly retraced his steps, when a shot from Lieut. Strutt struck him just before he regained the village. Such a feat is almost incredible. What his object could have been I know not, except that it might have been a daring show of bravery to his fellows. Just now, the enemy in the maidan began to waver; the order was given for the sappers and Hyderabad infantry to occupy the village, which was speedily done, for as they advanced the enemy evacuated it, and fled. The cavalry pursued and cut up a good number of them; the main body then fled into Mundasore. By 5 o'clock the field was ours. The Hyderabad infantry occupied the village in strength after the sappers had loopholed several walls; and the force returned to camp.

Lieut. Prendergast, Madras Engineers, was shot through the chest when charging with the cavalry. This day the enemy were considerably cut up, for

no prisoners were taken. We made a flank movement on the morrow from our last encamping ground, crossed the river "Soor" or "Sonor," and thus got upon the high road to Neemuch, about a couple of miles from Mundasore. This movement was executed in a most masterly manner. All the baggage, commissariat, &c. passed over in safety, and we were now able to threaten the rebel force around Neemuch, or the enemy in Mundasore, from an easy position of attack, if needed. As we neared the town in front, still moving on our left flank away from it, the enemy opened fire upon us from a heavy gun, without, however, doing any harm to us. It was amusing to see how we deceived them, as they crowded upon the bastions and walls of the old town to resist our entrance, and had placed guns to command the road to it.

The reason why we moved past Mundasore and left the enemy in our rear was paramount. All the Europeans in Neemuch had shut themselves up in the fort, and were surrounded by some ten or twelve thousand of the enemy. They had nobly resisted two desperate attacks made by the enemy upon them, but provisions, and ammunition, and strength of body were beginning to fail them. They had sent word to us that they could not hold out many days longer; not that their hearts failed them for a moment, but that the means wherewith

to oppose such an overwhelming force were becoming hourly more and more exhausted. To accomplish the relief of this brave little band was our object ; the only fear we entertained was that we might be too late.

BATTLE OF MUNDASOORE, AND RELIEF OF NEEMUCH.

On the morning of the 23rd November we struck camp, and commenced our march for Neemuch. There was another small stream to cross, and before all the baggage could get over, the enemy came out from Mundasore to fall upon the rear. The dragoons and two guns soon drove them back. We continued our march now in comfort. The rear guard was formed by a squadron of dragoons, under Lieut. Leith, and two companies of the 25th B. N. I., under Lieut. Fenwick. The column marched slowly, in order to keep the baggage close and compact on our left ; our right was carefully watched by our cavalry. We had marched about five miles upon the road when a halt was sounded. Immediately ahead of the column was a hill with a little house on the top of it. While the halt was going on down the line, we, who had gained the hill, saw something in front of us very like moving masses and flags waving above the high crops of

jewaree. They became more and more distinct, and presently we could see a large body of horsemen and two bodies of infantry. It was, indeed, the enemy from Neemuch in force ! They had selected a very strong position upon the road, their right resting on the village of Goorariah, their centre on a long hill, and their left well covered by fields of uncut grain, with broken ground, and nullahs in their front full of water and mud. As soon as it was well made out who our friends in front were, the order to send all baggage to the rear in left was given. The enemy were not a mile from us ! It was wonderful to see the hulky elephant come trumpeting and trotting to the rear, with his driver almost green with fright, and the unwitting dhooly-bearers, who had strayed, in defiance of all orders, too far ahead with their sick charges, jolting the little life they had in them to pieces as they ran back, and perverse ghorawallas tumbling with fright as they made their retreat into the crowd of baggage, fast collecting in a jumbled mass. The artillery then rattled to the front like a railway train, with terrific impetuosity, the men waving their caps and cheering as they flew past to open fire !

The 86th marched down, forming into double line on the right of the guns ; the 25th coolly fixed bayonets, unfurled their standard, and with the

Madras sappers, *en echelon*, on their left, moved up in double line as beautifully as on a parade ground to the enemy's centre, from whence their guns now opened a sharp and heavy fire ; left of these was the Hyderabad infantry ; the Hyderabad Contingent battery opened from our left centre, and on either flanks were the dragoons and irregular cavalry.

Just as we were all hurrying down towards the enemy, I saw a string of *nineteen* other prisoners in charge of a guard of Hyderabad infantry, also marching down to the front. As it was evident every available man would be required for the battle, which had now commenced in earnest, this guard was relieved of their present duty by the instant despatch of these rebels.

We pounded away, and the enemy answered us with alacrity. As our infantry advanced they were met by an advance from the infantry of the enemy, and then commenced the rattle and din of musketry. They came down from their heights, with scores of banners and flags of all colours flying, with considerable spirit to within a few yards of our infantry. Major Robertson with his regiment charged them, and drove them back. Great numbers of them got into a deep nullah, and here we lost many valuable fellows. Lieut. Martin, of the late 3rd Bengal Cavalry, with some score of dragoons charged the enemy's guns and cut down the

gunners ; by some accident or other he was not supported, and so had to retire, having received a bullet wound in the knee. They were again charged and captured. The enemy continued to fight hard every inch of the ground, falling back upon the village on their right. Those who had not the chance of doing so fled along the Neemuch road, and in other directions through fields. The cavalry cut up great numbers in these fields. The infantry then moved upon the village, passing over nullahs filled with the enemy, and in these nullahs we lost a good many men. Numbers had taken to the trees, and hidden themselves in stacks of grass, and as our men passed them they fired upon them, and were then slain in return. Those in the trees dropped down like birds, and those who would not come out of the hay-stacks were burnt to death in them ! One fellow actually remained in a stack of grass until his head was on fire, and then rushed out, the very picture of a hell-fire demon, yelling and mad ! The enemy now opened a very sharp fire of musketry from this village. One fellow, more daring than the rest, or infuriated by liquor, rushed out of the village towards our infantry, fired his matchlock, then threw it away, and came running and capering down the hill, brandishing his sword a thousand ways, and jumping round and round like a maniac, untouched, though scores of

bullets were fired at him ; he even passed through the skirmishers of the 25th, and continued his antics, but a private with fixed bayonet advanced from the line to the front and awaited his approach, and, when within reach, struck him to the earth. To say that he did not seek this death would be absurd ; he might have avoided it as others did, but he chose to run his race in his own particular way. He might have been insane—perhaps he was.

Another fellow essayed to follow his example, but when he saw his friend fall he thought better of it, and turned tail like a shot. We had now surrounded the village with infantry, cavalry, and our artillery, but the enemy kept up such a constant heavy fire that we could only advance to within a few yards of it. To have wasted more life in a forcible expulsion by our infantry would have been absurd, as the after events proved. It was, therefore, surrounded, and our infantry was drawn off for the night. About mid-day, when the battle was raging hot in our front, the rear-guard was attacked by a strong body from the city of Mundasore. They were fiercely engaged by the dragoons, while the guns threw into their midst shell and shot. The 24-pound howitzer was served with great precision by a havildar of the Madras sappers, and soon discomfited them. In the charge of the dragoons, in this sharp encounter, Lieut. Redmayn was shot.

The enemy had gained a piece of ground in their retreat broken by deep pits, like rifle-pits, over which cavalry could make no way with certainty. Lieut. Redmayn's horse had carried him too far ahead of his men, so not only was he shot by the enemy, but robbed, and literally hacked to pieces. When his body was brought in, no feature could be distinguished. His horse, sword, pistol, and watch had been looted by these quick-fingered butchers, ere the dragoons could regain the body, and then, oh ! what a mangled corpse ! Wild beasts could scarcely have done more. No wonder we spared them not after such instances of tiger-like conduct. They are not content with the death of their enemy, but in all cases they hack them to pieces after death, and often decapitate them, and desecrate their narrow graves ! But then, this is no new feature of Hindu manners and customs ; from time immemorial their warfare has been stamped by the vilest excesses.

Night drew on apace, and the enemy in the village continued to show their determination not to succumb, although, by this time, it was one huge blazing fire all around them ; death staring them in the face on every side. Our camp was pitched ; the killed and wounded on our side was great ; we had upwards of sixty officers and men killed and *hors-de-combat* by this action. It was a wearying

day for most of us, and our beds were sought with not small anticipation of enjoying a well-earned repose. We were, however, doomed to be disappointed, for about midnight the alarm sounded, and the whole force was under arms again, weary, shivering, and wondering what was afoot. We were agreeably surprised to find that the alarm was caused only by our pickets firing upon the enemy endeavouring to escape from the village, so we turned in again, not a little rejoiced to think that we might yet comfort ourselves in the warm arms of Morpheus.

About 10 A.M. the next morning, the 18-pounders and 24-pound howitzer were brought up to within two hundred and fifty yards of the village, to destroy by shell and shot all who doggedly remained and continued to fire upon us. We shelled and tumbled the place into atoms about their heads ; all that could burn had been consumed ; the place was a mere burnt shell, yet they held out like fiends to the last. About mid-day some two hundred and twenty came out and surrendered, and at 4 P.M. the 86th regiment, the 25th Bombay N. I., and Madras sappers stormed the place, and thus ended the four days' fighting. The Rohillahs fought to the last. There was a good deal of slaying in the houses, and great difficulty experienced by our men in getting about the place, *for there was no street*

in it, and the houses led from each other into little yards and gullies like a rabbit-warren. A stronger place could not well be imagined.

It grew dark and we retired again to our camp for the night. We had not been in bed more than three hours when the alarm again sounded and the whole force turned out, by-and-bye to retire again as before. This turn out was not without its good effects, as we learnt on the morrow when we marched back upon Mundasooré, for the five or six hundred rebels *then* in this city believed we were bent upon entrapping them, and consequently absconded without waiting for further proofs of our intentions !

THE FIELD AFTER THE BATTLE.

A battle-field immediately after an action is no very inviting scene. More than one sense is sickened by the objects around ; the air is tainted, and death stares you in the face in most hideous forms ; swollen and bloated carcasses covered with vultures or being torn to pieces by the pariah dogs ; corpses lying drawn up in a heap burnt to a cinder ; some without a vestige of clothing, others lying peacefully as they fell ; the village was almost too foul to pass through, almost every house had its inmates of dead in some ghastly form or other—what the sword had commenced fire had ended.

Death and black ruin lay everywhere together. Spite all this, one old woman, who seemed nearly eighty years of age, had remained there a witness of the fearful consummation. Perhaps she was too feeble to fly, or held the little life then flowing in her veins as too worthless to prolong. She appeared starving as she sat on a stone feebly sighing and drinking water from a little earthen vessel. There was no one to comfort her, and the soldiery passed her by as they would a dog!

Down a well not far from the village we found a man hiding in a recess of the earth. How long he had been there no one knew, but he was too feeble to ascend by a rope which was thrown down to him. However, we helped him up, and when he gained the top he was too weak to stand. Some brandy-and-water and native bread was offered to him by Major Boileau, but this he refused as he might have done poison, although he appeared dying from starvation! another was discovered in a tree, where he must have been for three days. He refused at first to come down, a musket was pointed at him which had the desired effect; down he came, matchlock, tulwar, and powder-horn, too. In his belt we found eighty-eight rupees. This the men divided, and the bird was made a prisoner and sent into camp. In one of the fields an old woman was found with her right leg shattered by a shell;

in another *a little girl, of about nine*, with her left leg shattered! She had come with her father, who had been a sowar of the Nawab of Jaôra. All over the maidan were scattered English books, papers, envelopes, ladies' silk-dresses covered with blood, bonnets, parasols, elegant drawing-room chairs, and other things the rebels had plundered from Neemuch and other stations. The village still smouldered; the high crops were all beaten down; the earth torn up; nullahs filled with broken furniture, dead cattle and men; black heaps of ashes lay here and there, with charred corpses in their centres; the air was laden with sickening gases, in which vultures, kites, and crows circled and screamed, and circled over the horrid carcasses below; wretched camp-followers were prowling among the corpses and ruins—women, laughing and trampling through the broken corn,—men, turning about mangled bodies, diving into wells and tanks, climbing trees, and breaking down grain stacks—all searching for plunder like cowardly assassins, and revelling in the horrors of death like fiends!

Thus it fell out that Neemuch was relieved, and the rebel force which had fallen upon Mundasore was dispersed and destroyed. Either their Munda-soore friends had woefully deceived them, or they had miserably miscalculated upon British prowess. The one thing is quite evident, they would never

have left Neemuch to have coped with us in the field had they known of our movement the day before. Had we been a day later they would have united their forces in Mundasore and necessarily have given us fourfold trouble. The result would, doubtless, have been the same, though considerably protracted by the cover and resources a fine large city would have given to them. As it was, we found no little difficulty in ousting them out of the village of Goorariah. What would it have been had they occupied the fort and extensive city of Mundasore? They would probably have served us the same trick they did at Dhar, and have made for *that* fort again or *Indore*, while we should have had a work of no slight magnitude to have watched their movements and reduced the city and fort. The results testify fully to the importance of these battles, as will be seen hereafter.

I cannot pass away from the late scenes of excitement and death without paying a tribute to the exalted tone of the sepoys of the 25th regiment, and this becomes more prominent, considering the troublous times in which we were playing the grand game of hold-fast against such hordes of enemies. During the heat of the battle of the 23rd the sepoys of the 25th regiment suffered considerably; they came into the field hospital suffering from every description of wounds—arms and legs

shattered by round shot, limbs and body perforated by musket-bullets and flesh wounds of no slight nature. To see these men as they sat or lay down in the burning sun enduring all the excruciating agonies their wounds had caused them, while the surgeons were busy with others who had preceded them, was truly noble. The general observation made by them was "Ah! well, never mind, we have eaten the Sircar's salt for many years; this has been good work, and the Sircar will be good and take care of us, or our families if we die." One poor fellow, whose blood was welling away profusely from a wound near the shoulder-joint, was offered a little brandy-and-water as a stimulant, when he nobly said "Give it to my brother first," who sat next to him groaning in agony; he then drank and said he "did not mind his wound, for he knew Government would not forget him!" Not a man refused to take what was offered to him as drink—even then, all-shunned wine was willingly accepted by them; and when an amputation was performed, they bore it with heroic fortitude, for although chloroform was not administered, scarcely a groan escaped while the dreadful knife was severing the member from its body. In action they were cool, gallant, and intrepid; under the painful ordeal of the surgical operation they displayed patience, cheerfulness, and fortitude.

As we marched back to pitch our camp under the walls of Mundasoore we were met by scores of the inhabitants tomtoming and salaaming. Some were crying out that they had been awfully looted by the rebels—particularly the sowcars—which I believe to be a lie; others bowing and cringing in all the dirty obsequiousness of a native who knows that the weaker has “gone to the wall;” and then there were children skipping and trotting along as naked as they were born, evidently enjoying the arrival of our host as they would have done any other army; and women, old and young, sauntering in groups, and tattered beggars, lame and blind, with their empty polished shells before them, and dogs looking heavenward and howling out our advent as we swept along, an august, conquering cavalcade!

After having pitched our camp several of us strolled into the town and up to the fort. The bazaar was open in the main street leading towards the fort, and a fine one it was. The houses were rather imposing, compared with those of other native towns, and a half of them appeared occupied. The towns-people were evidently mortally afraid of our presence, for they flitted about from house to house like shadows, closing their doors behind them with a slam as we passed along. The fort, which once ranked as a first-class one, was fast tumbling to decay. It was occupied by a few of

Scindiah's sowars, who lolled about apathetically, watching our movements like cats. There were a few play-things in the shape of ordnance loaded to their muzzles with rudely hammered grape-shot, a few broken gun-carriages, some of which had recently been repaired by the enemy, and a hundred worthless pieces of rebel camp lumber lying in different directions.

I asked one of these fine gentlemen how it was that they had allowed the enemy to enter their master's fort, when he replied in a tone and accent that might have come from the lips of a London fop, "You see, when a large army comes to a place like this, and there are but few of us inside, we must doubtless run away—*buss*, enough!"

I did, indeed, think such an explanation from the bloated, emasculated fop, *enough*! These are the specimens of officers Scindiah then rejoiced in—no wonder they played their own lord and master false in the hereafter. The sun shines—it is *buss*; storm comes and drives them about like the seared leaves of the forest, and it is *buss* still; they gorge and sleep upon the very mine that is to explode and blow them to atoms, and that, too, is *buss*. Stolid indifference to anything in this world, save their own extensible paunches and purses, forms the main trait of their characters, and when they have filled them, they complacently stroke their

moustaches and sigh out *buss*, as they take their pipes, indifferent of time, the world, or eternity! The crack of doom might sound, and I verily believe they would call for their pipes, and console themselves with *buss*!

Having satisfied ourselves of the feasibility of breaching this said fort—supposing it had required that terrific way of announcing our wish to come in—we strolled back again, taking another street for inspection. We made many inquiries of the inhabitants as to whether any of the enemy remained concealed in the town. At first they feared to confide in us, although they had saluted and welcomed our arrival the hour previous. By-and-bye, however, one came forward and volunteered to show us several large houses in which the rebels had concealed themselves. While pointing out these dens the fellow trembled, and paled like ashes. We made up to one, burst open the doors, and there we found them engaged in the preparation of a meal. In this house there were seven men, two or three women, and their children. Tattoos and oxen stood in the yard. In the house we found the caps, boots, bayonets, and belts of the Mahidpore mutineers, tulwars, spears, matchlocks, and ammunition. Among other things was the beautiful sword of the late Capt. Tucker of Nee-much, who had fallen in one of the encounters with

the enemy outside the fort, *and whose grave they had opened, severed the head from the body, and carried it away upon a pole and exposed it outside this city gate for several days!* They all pleaded not guilty, of course, although these evidences were before their eyes. One fellow was dressed up as a wild, savage-looking fakeer, and swore he was only a poor mendicant; this, however, was speedily disproved by a Madras sapper, who pulled off the matted-hair wig of the fakeer, and there and then displayed the close-cut crop of the sepoy: they were all made prisoners. In another house pointed out, a *burra sahib* was said to have closeted himself. We had great difficulty in forcing an entrance through the door, which he had barricaded within with a ladder resting against the opposite wall. At last we rushed in and there were three tattoos, saddled and ready for a trot, and a couple of spears, but no *burra sahib*. In the three rooms there was a large quantity of European loot, Commissioner's papers, and wax seals, looking-glasses, and the Korân; two large camel-trunks padlocked—full of European rubbish; but the man was gone although all had been fastened from within and escape seemed impossible. There was an upstairs room also, shut up, this we examined, and were just leaving it when a cot in a corner was seen to move. "Here he is!" was the exclamation, and sure enough

there was the great rebel Mikrani in his hiding-place. The *burra harámzáda*, as the towns-folk called him, was caught ; and now, they seemed more inclined to point out others.

In another part of the town a dragoon was strolling in undress, when a great fellow rushed out of a house with a terrific looking knife and commenced an attack upon him ! The dragoon sustained some severe cuts, for he had no arms, but got the fellow down, wrested his knife from him, and slew him. This villain was the kotwal of the enemy, and a good riddance. Others were found with recently blood-stained garments upon them and wounded, and almost every hour of the day prisoners were being brought into camp from the neighbouring villages. One fellow—a Rohillah—was asked who he was and where he came from ? He refused to tell his name, and said in a scornful voice, “ He had no country, knew no time, no master,—the *world* was *his* home ! ”

We had now upwards of two hundred prisoners, and the drum-head court was sitting all day.

Prisoners were brought in also *from the villages with their noses cut off*—thus the strong Hindus do by their weak and fugitive brothers. Had we been worsted they would have done the same by us ; this is their way of showing allegiance to the conquering power !

A rebel jemadar—Cassim Khan—was hiding in

a village some miles off. A body of Hyderabad irregular cavalry under Lieut. Johnston went out to bring him in, dead or alive. He was caught, and while they were preparing the rope to bind him, he slipped under a horse's belly and was off. He was pursued and killed, and his head brought into camp. This head and that of the kotwal were then hoisted upon poles in front of the city gate, and the people beat them with their shoes—the cringing hypocrites! They had done the same to the head of Capt. Tucker, who had been slain by the rebels at Neemuch a short time before.

On the 30th of November a general parade of troops was ordered for the evening. The troops assembled and formed three sides of a square, three guns occupying the fourth. By-and-bye twenty-six prisoners were brought up, three of whom were the subadar major, the subadar, and jemadar of the Mahidpore artillery; these three were tied to the guns and blown into atoms. The twenty and three others were then blindfolded and shot by musketry! So ended the lives of these murderers. The head of Capt. Tucker was discovered buried in a basket beneath a grove of trees near our camp. It was sent back to Neemuch, to be again interred with the mangled trunk the rebels had left there.

Several of the officers from Neemuch came into our camp and told us how desperate an attack the

force we had defeated had made upon the fort there on the night of the 21st. They had constructed a huge kind of covered ladder upon wheels, which they rolled along under its shelter close to the walls, but they were met by such a murderous fire that they retired, after three attempts at escalade, with howlings and wailings. On the morrow they were gone, and in due season received from our hands the chastisement I have detailed.

A considerable breach was effected in one of the walls of the fort of Mundasore by the Madras sappers, so as to render the place untenable by a foe, should another spring up in this part of the world. Capt. Keatinge was installed, *pro tempore*, in the political charge of this city, and the force prepared to march back upon Indore *via* Mahidpore. Major Orr was to remain behind with his force of Hyderabad troops.

It can scarcely be doubted that the whole country would have been against us to a man had we not have achieved these victories over the rebel forces. The aspect of events had materially changed, and they now bowed down to us in abject lowliness and disgusting servility. One could scarcely look upon these people in any other light than as cowed traitors, liars, and knaves. Mundasore is a complete sink of vice, *a modern Sodom under our own eyes*, in which the face of every European is hated.

To sympathize with such a debased race is impossible; fire and brimstone alone would purge them of their iniquity. They hate our justice, they despise our clemency, they only pray for our annihilation; they will greedily snatch at our pecuniary alms, but fly, though starving, from our bread, as though we were lepers and polluters of such superior souls; they will bow down to the dust and kiss our feet, and turn away cursing and invoking a hundred plagues upon our heads; they are unscrupulous liars, cunning as serpents, and as untrustworthy as the blood-loving tiger!

At length, having struck a quietening blow at the rebellion in Malwa, we turned our faces towards Indore, passing through Seeta-Mhow, the river Seeptra, Mahidpore, Oojein, and other places lately looted by the rebels, in our route.

Mahidpore, once so beautiful a cantonment, presented the general melancholy features of rebellion and destruction. Every house was burnt down, and among their ruins were the shattered remains of carriages, palkies, chairs, boxes, and other furniture. Empty ammunition boxes lay here and there about the place, and beneath a fine grove of trees were several large guns spiked by the officers on the day of the mutiny; beneath these trees, too, were about thirty fresh-dug graves; here the enemy had buried their dead. In a nullah, on one side of the

parade ground, were several human skulls, most of them bore marks of sabre cuts. On the bank of the river was another gun, its carriage and limber destroyed. Separated from the cantonment by a small stream, a tributary of the Seepurā, is the town of Mahidpore, a dirty, deserted, ill-built place. On the arrival of our force the inhabitants continued to desert the town in great numbers, and there was some little difficulty in obtaining supplies for our troops.

The house lately occupied by the commandant, Major Timmins, had been a very beautiful place. He had expended considerable sums of money upon it, and beautified the grounds around it in a most superior *home-like* style. He had stabling extensive enough for twenty horses, and every other arrangement equally good. Beyond his lovely garden was a paddock, surrounded on three sides by a fine-grown, well-trimmed hedge, fir and cypress trees, and separated from the garden by white posts and chains, and a wicket gate. Exquisite taste was displayed everywhere around the heap of ruins where his house once stood.

The hospital, the best built I have seen in India, was not much damaged. Its windows and doors were torn down, and the contents of the surgery broken and scattered wantonly about. Every other bungalow was a ruin.

The lines were untouched, and certainly they presented the prettiest, cleanest, best appearance I have ever seen. Each street was paved, and on each side was a gutter and well-grown trees. Before each house was a little plot of land full of flowers, vegetables, and shrubs, then a wicket gate opening into the street. The houses were all tiled and in good repair. Altogether it looked the very pink of cleanliness and the model of a first-rate cantonment. On the morning of the dreadful outbreak of the Contingent, there was little hope of life save in flight. Capt. Mills was slain, Dr. Carey wounded, and butchered as he was being carried away on a cot; the Serjeant-Major and family were slain, and the Major with a few faithful sowars escaped by flight. Lieutenant Dysart, of the late Bengal 23rd, which mutinied in Mhow, was acting Adjutant, and a second time escaped death with the faithful remnant of the Contingent. Mrs. Timmins escaped, and was concealed by her dursi. She was afterwards rescued by Major Orr.

The evening before our departure from Mahidpore two men were hanged upon trees above the new-made graves of their brethren. Thus we left behind us in every place of mutiny a wholesome reminder to those who had panted for our blood and danced at our travail.

We marched through the town of Oojein, a very

extensive famous old place, very filthy, and crowded with inhabitants. Some time after we had encamped, a salute of seventeen guns was fired from the tumble-down fort in honour of our arrival. A few more prisoners were brought into camp here.

This extensive town is walled in all round, and a little distance from this wall is a fine palatial house surrounded by gardens and timber-trees belonging to the Biza-Baicee.

After a day's halt we resumed our march and again crossed the Seeptra. The noble bridge spanning it had been destroyed by the late rains, so that the troops had to cross over the river below it, at the old ford, and we encamped for the night only a few miles from the city of Indore, with a high belt of hills between us and that city. At an early hour on the morning of 15th December we struck camp and marched upon Indore, fully prepared for an encounter with the Maharajah's troops if they attempted any resistance to our entry into that city. It was necessary that the troops of Holkar should be disarmed, this he promised to effect if he could prior to our entrance. In case they resisted his behest we should encounter them, otherwise we were to march into the grounds of the residency. He could not disarm them until they saw our advance guard, then they tardily succumbed, and we marched through the suburbs and into the

grounds of the resident, where we pitched our camp, heartily rejoiced in the prospect of a rest, and rather disappointed in not having had the opportunity of meetly revenging the deeds of infamy done by the Indore troops a few months ago.

Not a little amazement and chagrin were displayed by these said troopers and the disaffected of the people at our undreamed-of advent.

Little did they imagine, when they beheld the blood of the victims and the flight of all who could escape, and the flames ascending from the bungalows, the church, and the residency a few months before, that the British would be back in such force so soon.

The hour of retribution had at length arrived, and it was now our time to astonish and awe them beneath the very walls of their ruler's palace. Our force was numerically very small, but the campaign we had just concluded and the good tidings from the far distant north made us equal to anything.

They all thought the Feringhees were no more when they butchered the powerless few about them. Even Holkar himself is reported to have consulted the court astrologer as to the part he was to play in the grand tragedy. But this wiseacre had enough good sense in him to say that "though every European save one were slain, that one would remain to fight and reconquer." Few could have

given a better estimate of the British character, for it is true to the letter.

Our onward determination astonishes and paralyses the native. He always calculates upon running away, such a thought never enters our brains. One day we are quiet in camp ruminating over the next upshot, another day we are fighting and blowing away from guns, and hanging, and imprisoning, as though the world's weal depended upon individual exertion; and this has been the character of all our late successes against the rebel armies.

The ruin here, as far as European dwellings were concerned, was complete. The residency was a chaos of disorder, its walls stood, for they were too well built to fall, but the doors, windows, and all the furniture had gone to ruin. Huge sooty copper pots lying upon drawing-room sofas, broken chairs and picture frames, smashed palkies and chandeliers, bedsteads, umbrellas, bonnets, yards of tattered silk, old shoes, prayer-books, Bibles, and newspapers, all lay together in pitiable confusion. And this was the state of the goodly house the resident of Central India had left behind him a few weeks before, and these were the remains of the property rescued by Holkar from the hands of the rebels! What a welcome home!

A short distance from the residency is the church,

a pretty little village-like sanctuary ; this the rebels had gutted and defiled. Hospital, and other buildings of a less substantial kind were complete wrecks, nothing remained but blackened tumble-down walls. And this was the state of the Indore cantonment ; the populous city on one side, the deep blue jungled-clad hills on the other, and naked desolation in the centre !

Our camp was pitched in the front of the residency.

About mid-day an invitation came from the Maharajah's court to all officers of the force to attend an open durbar at 5 o'clock, P.M.

By half-past four we formed a large and brilliant cavalcade, and rode to the palace of Holkar, some two miles off, anticipating a grand affair. We were all well armed, and preceded and followed by dragoons and irregular cavalry. For the first five hundred yards it was all very agreeable and pleasing, but we had not yet got into the enjoyable part of our ride to royalty. By-and-bye the earth answered to our tramp in clouds ascending, and every man's beard and moustache looked as though he had dipt his head into a flour sack, every blue coat was white, every red one grey or rusty, our unmentionables looked like the order of things pertaining to stonemasons ; choking was no word for the pneumatic occlusion. In this pickle or powder

we arrived at the palace gate of H. H. Maharajah Holkar about 5 P.M., and what a great, dark, frowning, stone gateway it is! In a square before this Holkar's sowars and infantry were drawn up, behind these were some thousands of the city folk looking on. The instant we turned into the square something began to blow, groan, and squeal an attempt at "God save the Queen." It is well for Her Majesty that she does not hear how all bands "Save her," or I fear she would be inclined to change the air: however, the motive was *laudable*; they wished to do us an honour, but I suppose Orpheus either would not or could not soar in Attic strains that evening, probably dust was in *his* throat too. I imagine a Mendelssohn would not elicit much out of key-bugle and a tom-tom, and these were the instruments upon which they essayed to honour our arrival at the palace.

We passed beneath the beautiful stately portal into the palace yard. Here again were troops, and two huge elephants, drawn up to look at us. Above, below, and around, in scores of windows and balconies, were the grinning mouths and glistening eyes of the gaudy-dressed heads of hundreds of Holkar's palatial hangers-on. It was motley. Here we dismounted, then ascended a few steps, and strode through an aisle of Mahrattahs beneath a beautifully carved balcony. We then

ascended a dark, wide staircase; at the top were other big-wigs, with naked legs, mumbling betel-nut and swelling about like divinities. We then passed through an upper open court, through a door, along a carpeted passage, and came to a stand. We were now entering the room in which sat H. H. the Maharajah. Long before we could get in we heard voices strike up the babel strains of nautch songs—the wondrous fiddle was very potent. We went in and seated ourselves, as best we could, upon tiny pillows on the floor; each pillow was just large enough for the knees—no more; this was very objectionable, but we sat down. At the top of the room, some 20 feet long by 12 wide, sat Holkar, cross-legged upon sundry large pillows, and leaning back upon others as though he had just swooned. Behind him was a crowd of tinselled Asiatics, on his left a man in green and gold, on his right Col. Durand, the Political Agent, and before him an attendant with a huge flaccid fan wafting about the close mephitic air. By-and-bye it became warm, and sundry other fanners posted themselves about the room and did likewise. The ventilation was Asiatic!

At the other end of the room stood his seraphic quire—a great, obese woman, covered with jewels and bursting herself in nautch soprano, was the middle cherub, on either hand two lesser beings

vieing with the plethoric centre; behind these goddesses were three men blowing and grinding away at something made of wood and string. Of course this concert was very edifying and charming, and it went on without cessation the whole time.

In the process of time a large dish covered with sweetmeats came round. A handful upon a green leaf was given to each and all of us, but, oh! what should have been raisins was *betel-nut*—what sugar-plums, cardamoms—what currants, cloves! Here was a compliment! Then came bowls of silver. Now the treat *is* coming—punch or cool nectar, of course! It came round, but instead of sparkling nectar, we got an *eye-full* of rose-water from a silver squib! This was overpowering. To squib water into the eyes and over the red coats of British officers could scarcely be endured. What duels have been fought for less! but there we sat like patriotic martyrs. The next thing to be expected might be a scimitar, sharp as lightning, to cut one's head off, and a silver salver to bear it away, but this time there came a wreath of flowers, of Asiatic odour, and then another big-wig came round and took up your hand most confidently. I thought he was a seer—a Joe Anderson—but, no! I was deceived again, for he quietly rubbed his greasy, slimy fingers along my palm, and, like a musk rat, left a piquant odour behind him; this

was terrible. All this time it was getting closer and darker, and the discord swelled unintermittingly in prolonged, cracked *ha! ha! ha's!* and quavers that would have sent Handel to the seventh inferno. Behind us were three windows, and through these trembled the spasmodic music of a brazen band from below. This was very grand—it came from H. H. the Maharajah's band! Six red-coated men stood round a square table, bending their necks and wagging their heads over some paper they pretended was music. They played a sort of *post-horn gallop-march-polka*, for nobody could make out what it was. What with music below, music above, a fiendish atmosphere, blinded eyes, and throats full of dust, it was a very difficult thing to feel entertained.

It was getting very dark. Suddenly a man marched up to the warblers and seemed to administer *coup-de-bouche*, for they instantly put up their pipes. Simultaneously with this musical stop Holkar rose up, and holding Colonel Durand by the *little finger* led him out of the room like a babe with *tata* and *bye, bye!* Then he took the hand of the brigadier and nearly shook it off; he seemed pained, and perhaps this was a sneaking way of punishing him for his bravery and gallantry. Holkar said he “was very glad to see him and his victorious army.” He then called Capt. S. Orr

back and shook him very warmly by the hand. Then we went out, ran down stairs, rushed to our horses, and back for another dose of dust. Then commenced such a tom-toming, striking of gongs, firing of guns, blowing of asthmatic bassoons, hooting and shouting, plunging and kicking of our frightened horses as one seldom sees or hears in this world. The horses evidently considered this behaviour highly improper, as they did all they could to kill Holkar's people for it. By-and-bye we were in something worse than any London fog, but it must be endured, and so we rode on into camp choked, smothered, and dying for beer. How cool, and sweet the camp was! who would live in a palace?

Thus ended the Malwa campaign! Col. Durand left us that night; on the morrow Sir H. Rose, K.C.B., and Sir R. Hamilton, arrived in Indore, and the force then assumed the name of the Central India Field-Force.

In our march through Malwa we had ample opportunity of observing the peculiarities of the country we passed over, the villages, towns, and people. As our campaign in this part lasted from about the middle of October to the end of December, we probably had an opportunity of seeing the country in its most attractive and cheerful dress; certainly the season was the one most suited to

Europeans either for fighting or sight-seeing. The sun was never too hot in mid-day, the mornings and evenings were pleasant to a degree ; indeed, towards the middle of December the temperature of the air was so reduced in the early morning as to oblige most of our troops to wear top-coats on the march. Such an atmosphere was particularly invigorating. As there had been abundance of rain prior to our leaving Mhow, the rivers, and tanks, and wells afforded us more than enough water for our use, and of the best kind. This is always a source of comfort to a camp, while well-filled tanks, clear flowing rivers and wells—ever the scenes of busy life—add a never-failing charm to the landscape. Malwa is a particularly picturesque country—one is never tired by the almost eternal level so striking in other parts. There are rivers, broad, deep, winding, and rapid ; hills clothed with jungle and timber trees ; miles of undulating grass land, and extensive plateaus of rich alluvial soil ; in which are cultivated the sugar-cane, various cereals, every kind of esculent vegetable to be desired, and the opium poppy.

The grass-land, extending for miles in various parts, unbounded by any visible mark, save the distant hills, and studded here and there with stately forest trees that vie with the oaks of England in size and beauty, and clothed with grass from four

to five feet high, in which antelope and deer roam in herds, gives one an idea rather of a princely, well-kept forest-land than of a country neglected and wild. The cultivated fields are very extensive, and their produce rich and abundant. The most important plant cultivated in Malwa is the *Papaver somniferum*—the opium poppy,—from the monopoly of which Government obtains a considerable revenue.

The culture of this plant is a laborious work—great care, constant weeding, and irrigation are needed. Around most of the villages are opium fields. Manure is stored for the soil and ploughed in. The whole field, however extensive, is divided into numberless little compartments by elevated ridges of earth, and into each of these compartments water is run night and morning from an adjacent well, drawn up by bullocks in a leather bucket. As soon as the bucket arrives at the top it is tilted over and the water falls into a small cistern, from whence it runs for the purpose of irrigation through divers channels into the opium fields. This is a tedious and long business, but since the ryot finds it profitable to produce a certain quantity of opium yearly for sale to the opium agents of Government, it must be done, for without copious irrigation the poppy dies.

The cultivation of the poppy gives employment to many of the villagers, and at the cutting season

there is a good deal of life and excitement in these gardens of poison. After the opium has been extracted from the poppy it is amazing to see with what care it is packed up, blanketed, and transported to Bombay. The sowcars (money merchants) in Mhow, Indore, and other large towns make enormous sums of money by the opium trade. I have known as much as fifteen per cent. given for money by native merchants during the opium harvest, and if natives will give so much, and sometimes they give more—what must be the profit obtained by them upon this article of commerce? for we know that the native is not satisfied with a little.

We not unfrequently passed through fine groves of tamarind trees, mango trees, and peepul trees. In one of our marches I remember we halted near a village, beneath a gigantic banyan tree, at the foot of which ran a small stream. This tree had extended so far as to be fully capable of shading a thousand men lying at ease beneath its branches. Its droopers reminded one of the pillars of a huge gothic building, outside all was sunlight and brilliance, beneath the green canopy shadowy, cool, still, and murmuring with the hum of insect life. A little tomb lay at the foot of the trunk over which hung flags of red and white cloth.

Such trees are not uncommon, but I never saw

one so large or so well fitted for repose before or since.

The brilliant and gorgeous sunrises and sunsets at this season of the year were something astonishing. The most fantastic clouding, the most marvellous colourings imaginable, were there, grouped in such passionate minglings that seemed almost to defy description or copy. Burning red and gold, like floating molten masses of metal rolling and streaming in ether; bands of transparent yellow, tipped with crimson and umber, gliding over fields of delicate shadowy green; feathery cloudlets of rose and crimson and gold parting for ever in an ocean of purple, and dark angry mountainous heaps looking terrible with their fringes of deep red and tumbling heads of umber and purple and black,—all this, and a thousand times more, painted on the canopy of heaven, brightening, deepening, changing, dissolving for ever!

Nor are the nights less beautiful. Scarcely does the curtain fall ere the scene is changed as by the touch of a magic wand, and now we have a thousand brilliant worlds scintillating above us from their cold, deep-blue abysses of night. Awfully grand is the contemplation of heaven by night in India. The mind passes from the finite to the Infinite—the boundless—the eternal; time is forgotten—space and spirit appear only as one, until

at last the soul shrinks back from its flights into the little fleshly world it has leapt from, awe-stricken and chastened.

Often were the southern cross and the great bear visible in the heavens at the same time, and, as it seemed, only a short distance from each other. These two bright constellations divided, as it were, the beauty of the starry hosts between them. The pellucidity of the milky-way was most striking, vast masses of what appear only as faint nebulous tings in other climates show themselves as well-marked clusters of stars infinitely deep in space.

Malwa, from the south of Jaôra extending to the west, is rich in fine-grained sandstone; there are also sandstone slates, and clay iron-ore. Very good iron ore is found in mammillated and reniform masses and is worked. Some very rich specimens are to be had in the bazaars, besides which are the rude masses which have been smelted of a *bright crystalline* form.

Basalt is found in the Chumbul in horizontal stratified tables and solitary boulders.

Some of the villages are particularly clean and well built, others very wretched collections of hovels; the people of the villages appeared in no wise to be badly off. The large towns, such as Dhar, Noli, Mundasoor, Mahidpore, Oojein, Seta-Mhow, and Indore are more or less imposing, and thickly in-

habited by very wealthy merchants, shop-keepers, and numerous artizans of considerable skill. A feature worthy of notice during these troublous times was that *the peasant and agriculturist continued their ordinary labour as though nothing in the world was afoot of greater moment than the seed they were sowing or the crop they were reaping.*

A battle might be fought in one field, and in another was the ploughman with his plough and oxen. Occasionally we saw evidences of distrust in our route,—a well-rope and bucket and yoke all clean and moist by the well, but no oxen, no attendant ; a plough just in the loam with oxen hard by, no ploughman. These were hard times for the ryot whose estate happened to be in the line of march. Many a carrot field was trodden down or well nigh consumed ; many an opium field sadly injured by camels, elephants, and wanton camp followers ; many a sugar-cane field looted by elephants and camp followers ; many a hempen well-rope turned into a drag-rope ; and I fear, also, that many of the poor villagers came off little better, for long lines of camp followers always straggle through the villages while the force passes by, and these creatures are always given to plunder. However stringent orders may be to the contrary, they cannot be enforced to the letter. These beings are the necessary evils attendant upon the march of an army in India ; they act upon

the rule of might, not right; and although no countenance is given to them, they plunder the poor villager, unoffending or otherwise. Each fellow manages to obtain a tattoo and a tulwar, and with these overawes the timid and defenceless. They are great scoundrels, but an army cannot get on without them.

One of the most marvellous things is the way in which women and children spring up with an army. A force may march out for the field with only, perhaps, a slight sprinkling of native women with them—such as milk-women and horse-keeper's wives, but, ere long, more and more women and children appear, and by-and-bye, on either flank of the force, there is a brigade of women riding tattoos astride, and chattering like parrots all the time. The milk-women are wonderful beings, they not only march with the force, carrying milk upon their heads—(where they get it from is a mystery)—to supply the men as they go, but after camp is pitched their voices are heard everywhere crying out *doodh* for the whole day long. One woman generally attaches herself to a particular corps, and thus each corps is supplied with milk. Although these women undergo considerable fatigue, they seem to thrive on the occupation.

Sometimes a horse-keeper has a wife and seven or eight children with him. How such a fraternity

manage to live is a marvel. It frequently happens, too, that a poor man with such a prodigious family is a terrific drunkard. That his children should squint or do anything alike is not to be wondered at. A man with such a string of representatives has hard times of it. When it blows cold at night, as it often does, they make a fire near a cart, put up a cob-web kind of screen, cook their rice, eat, drink, and fight, and then, amid wailings and oxen, retire until the bugle arouses the camp next morning. If perchance he is overcome by Bacchus, as he often is, he lies down on the earth, abuses his wife and family and Government, and swears he'll be a sepoy, while his poor half-starved wife covers him up to prevent master seeing him, and master's horse neighs and paws to know why he is not attended to.

Another extraordinary accompaniment of a force is the number of dogs. Day by day as the march continues these creatures increase in numbers, and they are generally of the most wretched caste. Certain of them attach themselves to each corps, many others to individual camp followers, and the jealousy with which they look upon the intrusion of another of their kind into their ranks, when moving from place to place, is very striking. If a stranger attempts to join them, no matter how he fawns and cringes and snarls, he is summarily expelled in the

most uncourteous manner, and hunted away as the veriest outcast. Notwithstanding this jealousy of cupboard, they multiply in direct ratio with our movements. On the line of march they are annoying, by the constant clouds of dust they create in their frolics and fights, in the camp they are far more serious evils. Their howlings, and snarlings, and barkings at night are most irritating. If it be a clear moon-light night they hold their orgies till grey morning. Sleep is out of the question, for they come screaming, snarling, racing, and panting among your tent ropes—sometimes through your tent—like wild beasts. By the time you are up and out, they are off among the ropes of another's tent; and thus, backwards and forwards, until you wish them all in Styx. Added to these nuisances, packs of jackalls and hyænas follow in our track, and invariably commence their demoniac concert about the hour one wishes to court "tired nature's sweet restorer," never content with indulging in their predaceous habits without announcing their presence by their fiendish wails and howls. I know nothing more horrible than to be awoke by the voices of these skulking carrion—cowards in the calm of night!

At Mundasoore and Oojein, many of the town's people came into our camp to sell their goods. They all appeared quiet and well to do. In the evening

a considerable number of the merchants came out to hear the band of the 25th N. I. I do not imagine this was really to listen to the music, as the native considers our music execrable—nothing to be compared to his own tom-tom—I believe it was a demonstration on their part of good feeling towards the victorious arms. •

There was abundance of every kind of game for the sportsman—water-fowl in great numbers. The starting of an antelope or hare in or near the camp was always attended with a good deal of excitement among the troops. However long the march had been men were never too tired to race bare-headed in the sun through the camp after them. The cry was no sooner heard than camp followers, sepoy, dragoons, and artillery men were out in the chase, and mingling with them were bull-and-terriers, terriers, and pariahs of all sizes and colours, dodging among pickets of horses, guns, tents, and carts, after the unfortunate game. Frequently at the same time a horse or miserable tattoo would get loose and scamper off with his head and heel-ropes flying about him into the midst of dragoon or artillery horses, whereupon a kicking scene would ensue, followed by other horses getting loose, and accompanied by universal neighing and screaming as they chased each other among the tents, breaking tent-ropes and upsetting everything

in their way, while their keepers were vainly endeavouring to capture them. These scenes were always ludicrous, sometimes dangerous.

By the middle of December we had hoar-frosts in the mornings, and consequently the early morning marches were very invigorating. When we arrived at Indore we were agreeably surprised to find we could obtain ices at any time during the day. This was a luxury beyond expectation, and so long as we remained there we naturally indulged in them. The sites of all the larger towns and cities are generally well chosen. They are usually commanding, and built upon the banks of a river or on the side of a large tank. They are surrounded by thick, high walls, with strong bastions and gateways, and usually have a citadel or fort commanding the most exposed face. They are well stocked with cattle and grain, and in most instances have good encamping ground for forces, more or less shaded by extensive groves of tamarind and banyan trees. The rivers are invariably without bridges, and during the rains are almost impassable; at other times their banks are so steep and rugged as to require cutting before artillery and baggage can be passed over. The roads are invariably bad, broken up, and intersected by nullahs in the clay and alluvial soils, or rugged and stony in the districts of sandstone and trap; this naturally impedes the pro-

gress of a force ; heavy guns and baggage-carriage are dragged along them with considerable difficulty and labour, and are often a day or two behind the advanced column. The whole of these city fortifications are now in a greater or less degree fast going to ruin. They would never give umbrage to a force opposed to Europeans, although an European force would sustain a long and triumphant opposition within them.

CHAP. IV.

Major-General reviews troops and inspects hospitals.—Preparations for campaign in Central India.—General events.—Siege train marches to Sehore to join second brigade.—Arrival in Sehore.—Execution of mutineers.—March for Rhatghur.—Bhopal.—Siege of Rhatghur.—Escape of rebels.—Affair of Barodia.—Death of Capt. Neville.—Relief of Saugor.—March to Gurrakotta.—Capture of fort.

INDORE AND PRELIMINARIES OF THE CAMPAIGN.

AFTER the advent of Major-General Sir H. Rose and Sir R. Hamilton, the Malwa field force changed its name. It was now styled the 1st brigade of the Central India field force ; and the force recently assembled at Sehore, under Brigadier Stuart of the 14th Light Dragoons, was styled the 2nd brigade of the Central India field force, the whole now under the command of Sir H. Rose. The Major-General reviewed the 1st brigade on the morning of 17th, and in the course of the day inspected hospitals. On visiting the hospital of the Madras sappers, the General said that Government was highly pleased with the Madras sepoy, and on a wounded sapper begging not to be left behind if the force moved, Sir Hugh very kindly said that every attention should be given to him, and that

he should not fail to make particular inquiries about him when he visited hospitals in Mhow. When the General visited hospitals in Mhow some few days afterwards, he paid marked attention to the welfare of the sick of the Madras sappers.

For several days about Christmas week Indore was in a very unsettled state, owing to a show of resistance on the part of some of Holkar's troops regarding the summary way in which the Major-General was dealing out punishment to some of their brethren. The General properly assumed the right of dictating what he thought the miscreants deserved, which in several instances amazed the people of Indore, and Maharajah Holkar too; but in no instance can it be said that he more than fulfilled the wishes of every right-thinking officer and soldier, or answered to the loud cries of revenge from the nation one tittle too much. Vengeance—terrible and prompt—was called for, and in the person of the General we had one who was in every way suited to the occasion for its administration to a full and effective measure. The General not only displayed a polished *suaviter in modo* at once pleasing and attractive, but the *fortiter in re* that marked him as a man of promptitude, determination, and vigour, and one in whom confidence could be reposed.

At this period he had just arrived from England

with a bloom of health and elasticity of constitution seldom seen in men of his standing in India, and much, indeed, he needed these for the completion of the labour now before him, as we shall presently see.

There was much to be done and numerous arrangements required before the two brigades now under the command of Sir Hugh could again take the field, and this the General set about and accomplished to the amazement of all in an incredibly short space of time. He was laughed at and called a griff by a good many, and a good many others asked who he was and what he had done? About this time, too, an envious notice of the services of the General appeared in the papers from England. How their predictions have been fulfilled the world knows, and the wisdom of the choice of such an officer has been well proved. The idea of any one and every one being griffs unless they have seen the Indian world is, of course, Indian. The world has had a pretty good lesson in the late mutiny on griffs. One thing was quite evident, viz., that long residence in this country neither added to personal courage or wisdom, while it is patent that men who were denominated griffs were the very best leaders for these Indian wiseacres.

The troops had a little repose, and during this cool rest the sick and wounded derived much

benefit. The whole country about Indore was particularly suited as a resting-place prior to the coming campaign. There was an abundance of the common necessities of life, no lack of good water or fodder for cattle, and a climate for the time being of a most enjoyable nature. Towards the beginning of January 1858, there were rumours of a move towards Saugor, and eventually as far as Jhansi, of many sieges before us, and some whispered of the probability of our seeing the Ganges ere our work was ended! In fact, there was no end to the conjectures and rumours of war, so we looked anxiously every day for the orders that were to seal our fate for the year.

In the meantime I must not forget to mention the happy re-union we had on Christmas-day in Mhow. Almost every officer of the Malwa field force dined together that night. The room was decorated in a most becoming manner for the occasion with green leaves and the banners captured by our troops in their victorious little campaign in Malwa. The Major-General and staff came in from Indore—a distance of twelve miles—to the dinner. Every arrangement and detail was as well managed and imposing as the times would permit. Indeed, considering all things, it was surprising to see so goodly a *tout ensemble*. There was much cordiality and spirit; the position of Europeans under the

trying circumstances of the times seemed to knit them together in a closer bond of amity; the work of retribution so well begun was an incentive to further and more brilliant conquests; all present felt the deep importance of the coming struggles, and how dear the honour and prestige of his fatherland were to him. "The maids of merry England" were not forgotten, nor were the heroes who had gone gloriously to their graves in the conflicts in Bengal and other parts of India.

It was a happy meeting; few, however, who were present then met together to celebrate another Christmas. It was a half serious, a half merry time. So unlike the cold, frost-biting time of year when old Father Christmas is welcomed with merry-sounding bells, huge blazing fires, and the time-honoured carol in old England, as he presides with his crown of icicles and wreath of holly in every home. In India our Christmas time is one of imagination when compared with that we joyed in in other years. Here all is sunny, warm, foreign. Though we imitate the holly and mistletoe boughs, though we strive to make all within look as like the season as mortals can, yet we cannot persuade ourselves that we are not imitators, for, save the good things of the table, everything wears the dress of a midsummer's day.

We were on the eve of a new year—a happy one

for some, a dark and shadowy one for many ; not one among us then could realize the future, nor dream of which friend death would first deprive us. To look forward to the end of another year was like looking through a glittering halo of fire into the dark abysses of fate. Our work of retribution had but just begun, we had been baptized with fire, and now had a course of trying ordeals to run through until the goal should be attained and the sword sheathed in a crowning victory. By this time our enemies had rather multiplied than decreased ; though victory after victory had been gained by us, they appeared numerically as strong as ever. An amazing thing to us was the amount of guns they had possession of. In almost every instance in which we had by this time opposed them we had taken all their guns from them, and yet in every engagement guns re-appeared as though by miracle. True, many of these field-pieces scarcely deserved the name ; nevertheless, they were guns, and often did a good deal of mischief. I remember those we captured at the battle of Mundasore were all antiquated things, honey-combed and worn out ; how they dared fire them was a wonder.* Those they

* One of these guns, older than the rest, and with a vent like the muzzle of an old "brown-bess," they had facetiously named "*greased-lightning*," and bedaubed it all over with red and green paint. It was an old fourteen pounder of "G. Rex's" time.

had seized belonging to the different contingents and forts were, of course, the same kind as those used by us.

By this time we had the cheering news of the relief of Lucknow under Sir Colin Campbell. His masterly retreat from the residency of that city in the face of some 50,000 rebels can never be forgotten. The chivalrous way in which Sir J. Outram behaved towards that bravest of heroes, Havelock, when marching for the relief was only another instance of the many of its kind that have marked the long and honourable career of that General—the *brave des braves*, as he was once called.

Sir James had been appointed Chief Commissioner and General of that division, but as General Havelock had fought so valiantly every foot of the ground thus far, Sir James Outram felt he could not do less than allow General Havelock the honour of achieving what he had so nobly and manfully commenced, and the General thus writes in the order of the day :—

“Major-General Outram is confident that the great end for which General Havelock and his brave troops had so long and so gloriously fought will now, under the blessing of Providence, be accomplished. The Major-General, therefore, in gratitude for, and admiration of, the brilliant deeds of arms achieved by General Havelock and his

gallant troops, will cheerfully waive his rank on the occasion, and will accompany the force to Lucknow in his civil capacity as Chief Commissioner of Oude, and tendering his military services to General Havelock as a volunteer."

What nobleness of heart and fine feeling are displayed in those words ! How many, under similar circumstances, should we find do likewise ?

Major-General Outram knew the character of Havelock too well, and was too interested in the cause, and too proud of the heroic deeds of a brother officer, to sully so bright a career by the assumption of command at such an hour.

General Havelock and his well-tried followers had broken the neck of the mutiny ; they had paralyzed their enemies by their undaunted courage and endurance, and well, indeed, did he merit all that the world lavished upon him, but the honour and joy that were to follow he was not permitted to bear. He had toiled and marched, fought and endured, sounded the tocsin in the ears of the enemy and the trump of relief to the half-famished brave, and then, worn out and exhausted ere the little span of life was run, he lay down to depart to that " bourne from whence no traveller returns," while the voices of a nation echoed, " Well done, thou good and faithful servant ! "

While we had brought our operations in Malwa

to a successful issue, other small forces elsewhere—west, north, and east of us—had been adding to the list of victories, for such they must be called, while at the same time, spite these repeated demonstrations of the utter hopelessness of their cause, regiments which had up to this period appeared staunch and had even received the thanks of the Governor-General for their loyalty, could no longer withstand the potency of the moral contagion, and one after another dropped away from allegiance, like gangrened members from a poisoned body, till at length the whole Bengal army and its contingents had passed away! The only regiment which had not openly mutinied or undergone the degradation of being disarmed was the 31st N. I., stationed at Saugor, of which we shall speak hereafter.

It was wonderful to know that even up to the period of the last act of mutiny, somewhere about the middle of November, that they refused to believe Delhi had fallen! How could it have fallen? Had not all the feringhees, men, women, and children been murdered? were there not now some two hundred thousand well-armed men against us in the field, and all converging to that centre of Mogul power? Had not Nana Dhoondoopunt issued a proclamation and told them that no assistance could come to the British from beyond the seas, for all their ships had sunk, and the Governor-General

was beating his head? Verily the spirit of evil was walking the earth then! How is such insanity to be accounted for?

On they went in their choice, and in the meantime we were daily increasing in strength to punish them.

The Rhamghur battalion had been defeated near Chuttra; they lost their guns, baggage, &c.

The Mhow and Indore rebels were met by Col. Greathead near Agra on October 10th, and after a severe engagement, which lasted upwards of two hours, they were signally defeated with a loss of nearly fifteen hundred men, the whole of their baggage, and their plunder, amounting nearly to ten lakhs of rupees.

The mutineers who had taken refuge in the stronghold of Nana, Bhittoor, were expelled thence on October 18th, and with their expulsion the gold and silver plate of Nana was captured, the principal portion being found in wells. The tales of these treasures were extraordinary at the time.

On November 18th the three companies of the 34th N. I., who had up to this date remained faithful, could no longer withstand the temptation of rebellion. In the night they broke out in mutiny at Chittagong, fired their lines, set free the prisoners, robbed the treasury of about three lakhs of rupees, and then marched to Dacca. The news of their

doings had gone before them, as it always did in some mysterious way or other, and the 73rd regiment there made a climax of the affair.

I had almost forgotten to mention the revolt of the Kotah Contingent, and the murder of the Political Agent, Major Burton, and his two sons, and their surgeon. The major and his two boys gallantly defended themselves for hours on the top of their house ; at length the rebels got ladders, and then completed their tragedy. These blind fiends trooped also towards Delhi.

This was the state of the country when Sir H. Rose assumed command of the Central India Field Force, and, added to these rebels, we now had opposed to us most of the native princes, with their hordes of plunderers and cut-throats on every side.

The general having satisfied himself that all was in readiness for a move, the sick and wounded having been duly disposed of, and the disaffected in these districts awed, orders were issued to the effect that the force would move upon Saugor for the relief of that place ; all heavy baggage was to be left behind, and as few bullock carts taken as possible. Our movements were to be rapid, and the general rightly wished not to be encumbered with baggage. The siege-train, with the Madras Sappers, and part of the Hyderabad Contingent under Capt. G. Hare, and a squadron of 14th Light Dragoons

under Capt. Leith, were ordered to join the second brigade at Sehore, to which place the general had gone a day or two previous. The 1st brigade was to remain behind at Indore some few days, and then to march north, parallel with us, so as to fall upon Chandaree, a strong fortress then occupied by the enemy. The 3rd Bombay Light Cavalry, a company of the 3rd Bombay European regiment, and some Horse Artillery, with Colonel Turnbull, and other officers passed through Mhow on 2nd January for Sehore, *viâ* Simrole.

OPENING OF THE CAMPAIGN OF 1858.

MARCH TO SEHORE.

About 5 A.M. on the morning of the 8th January the siege-train commenced its march from Indore to Sehore. We had scarcely gone four miles on the road, when a violent explosion was heard in our rear. For an instant we imagined ourselves fired upon from ambush, but on turning round we saw a great column of smoke among the artillery of the Hyderabad Contingent, and men rushing wildly about here and there. The halt was sounded, and we galloped to the spot, and a most melancholy scene presented itself. A limber of a 9-pounder was filled with loaded shell, and these had exploded through some accident in packing. There lay a

human foot in one spot, pieces of flesh in another, burning cloth in a third; a wounded man here, another dying there, a third with the hair of his face and head singed off, and jaw broken! Two men were blown to atoms—the head with the right arm attached being all that was found. The limber had disappeared, and the gun, with its trail broken, was driven some yards back covered with blood. The oxen stood still as death, also wounded. The driver who sat upon the box was only blown off, while the second ahead of him was killed.

The wounded were sent back into camp at Indore, and when an advance could be made, we marched on from this awful scene, keeping well clear of tumbrils and ammunition waggons ever after. It was a sorry beginning we all thought.

Such are the uncertainties of life. In one moment these men who were marching cheerfully along in the pleasant hour of sunrise, full of life and hope and vigour, were blown into atoms, and their existences scattered upon the winds like breath. In this march towards Sehore we passed Ragooghur, situated near a pass over some hills. The little fort, if such loopholed mud bastions and walls deserve such a name, was partially destroyed in October last by Major Orr's force. The hills on either side were densely covered with jungle. At Peepliah, a town some twelve miles on, Major Orr had also chastised

the rebels. On our arrival at Ashtah, in the Bhopal territory, we heard that a large rebel force had collected beyond Sehore, and that the force there were anxiously awaiting the arrival of the siege-train.

We were now in the Bhopal state, and met a small force of the Begum of Bhopal encamped at Ashtah.

On our way to Sehore evidences of good management met the eye everywhere. The land was under the best cultivation, and looked quite refreshing.

We joined the force on the morning of the 15th, and were heartily received. Rather a laughable incident occurred on our marching into camp. The sappers had captured a standard at Mundasore—a gaudy yellow and green affair, and as they marched on this thing was unfurled, and flying at the head of the company. When they passed the 24th N. I. the quarter-guard turned out and presented arms. Many wanted to know what it was, whether it was the colours of the corps, as they had never seen Madras troops before, and the sappers in dark grey jackets, pagrees blacker than their faces, and the *je ne sais quoi* air about them which no other troops have, arising perhaps from a knowledge of their own fame and scientific calling, were certainly a specimen calculated to excite wonder.

The Bhopal Contingent had been little better than their brethren elsewhere; a few, however, remained

faithful, and of these few much was made, and well, indeed, did they deserve it. It was curious to find that those who had remained true to their allegiance were mostly Seikhs—true and tried men.

There was a long list of delinquents under guard in Sehore, and of these not fewer than *one hundred and forty-nine* were found guilty by the courts, and accordingly sentenced to be shot by musketry !

The duty of carrying out the extreme sentence of the law fell to the 3rd Europeans. The prisoners were brought out in the evening just as the sun was setting, were ranged in one long line, and at the given signal were shot, one man escaped.

Ere the execution was well over darkness had come on, and through the long, cold, dreary night an officer and men of the 3rd Europeans had to keep guard over this horrid line of dead. So ended this debt against this rebellious contingent.

The brigade moved off for Rhatghur at 3 A.M. on the morning of the 16th. This brigade, under the command of Brigadier Steuart of the 14th Light Dragoons, consisted of headquarters of 14th Light Dragoons, 3rd Bombay Europeans, 3rd Bombay Light Cavalry, 24th Bombay N. I., a battery of Bombay Horse Artillery, B. Company Madras Sappers, detachment of Bombay Sappers, Hyderabad Cavalry, Infantry, and Artillery under Capt. Hare, and siege-train. The siege-train was permitted to halt one

day, and then followed on the 17th ; on the 18th we encamped near Bhopal.

Immediately before coming to Bhopal, we had to ascend a range of hills, and then we saw the fort and city behind, high hills to the south, dense topes of trees all round, and a fine lake also to the south. A more beautiful site for a city could not be imagined. It looked like a cluster of summer-houses in a rich garden.

As we approached, guns were fired from the fort. It was a salute on the departure of the force that had preceded us. The fort of Bhopal is built on a rock commanding the road from the south, and the lake, and the country to the north. The walls were very high, strongly built of fine-grained sandstone, loopholed, and strengthened by square and round bastions, upon which guns were placed. As we passed the fort, the bastions, gateways, and walls were crowded with soldiers of the Begum.

The gardens in the immediate neighbourhood were beautifully kept ; and as far as the eye could reach green fields of wheat, linseed, dhal, and tobacco covered the earth, broken here and there by large shadowy clusters of tamarind and banyan and peepul trees.

I was much gratified by a stroll through this city. It was very clean, well-built, and evidently in a highly prosperous, progressive condition. The streets were clean, drained on each side, and lighted

every alternate fifty yards by an oil lamp on the top of a post, as in the olden times in England. The shops were very numerous and well-stocked with goods. In the centre is a large mosque, with towering minarets tipped with gold, in the best condition ; around this mosque is a large bazaar, and this was crowded with people, who, from their appearance, seemed well to do. There were poor, of course, but the only one I saw was a leper dressed in sackcloth. He was as white as an European, and an albino. He appeared very pitiable among people so opposite in colour—every one seemed to shun him, and he to avoid all as he strolled along turning his pink eyes here and there from the bright sunlight. The women were very fair and pretty, some even beautiful ; the men well-made and handsome.

On the extensive lake close to the city is a steam-boat belonging to the Begum. This steamer is managed by a well-educated Musselman. The lake supplies the city with fish and wild fowl.

The Begum of Bhopal is a shrewd, enlightened old lady. The people of Bhopal would, doubtless, have gone against us had it not been for the influence of this one person. She put off their mutinous solicitations from day to day, assuring them that the proper time for the expulsion of the British had not yet arrived. She knew too well her position, and the power of England, and rightly turned her back upon rebellion.

Her only child is a daughter, whom she has married to an officer of her own force,* and who was then in an interesting situation.

Her territory, though small, is a model one—a pattern principality. The little part of it we passed over was mostly a rich plateau, broken here and there by undulating hills, well clad with clean timber trees. There was but little jungle comparatively, and where this most prevailed it could easily be removed, for it was generally grass and the small palas trees—the *butea frondosa*. Indeed, it looked like a well-kept and very picturesque park. Around the city of Bhopal in particular, the groves were very beautiful and numerous. There were the banyan ; peepul—*ficus religiosa* ; mango ; kuthal—jack tree ; neem—*melia azadirachta* ; bele—*crataeva marmelos* ; tamarind ; mhowa, *bassia latifolia*, and many others blossoming or in fruit, some blossoming and fruit-bearing at the same time. Nothing could be more beautiful than these groves dotted about here and there in the midst of luxuriant waving crops, and this, too, was after a season of unusual dryness. It appeared as though little or no oppression marked the rule in this territory, though it is in the centre of Central India, far removed from any large river or other city. The condition of the

* “After the manner of Victoria and Albert,” as the old lady remarked.

country speaks well for the administration of Sir Robert Hamilton and his assistants. I cannot say whether the very superior condition of the city was owing to the advice given by Capt. Keatinge, but I believe the presence of the little steamer on the lake, a thing so likely to astonish and stimulate and awaken the people of this far-removed state, was owing to the exertions of this officer.

On the 21st we reached Bilsah, famous for its tobacco, as its name implies, and topes. We were again in the territory of Scindiah. A little distance from the bungalow and encamping ground is an enormous rock of trap standing out from the plain around like a huge pre-adamite obelisk. There is a small temple on its top.

On the 23rd we were at Gwarispoore, a most solitary, cold looking spot.

We had had rather a quiet day, and intended marching early in the morning. So we enjoyed our dinner and retired early. However we were not permitted to enjoy what we had bargained for, for about 10 o'clock the bugle sounded, and we were all up again in an instant. Orders had been received from the force in advance of us to request our joining immediately, as a body of the enemy was on our left flank, and might delay the transit of the siege-train.

There was some slight confusion in our little

camp. An elephant belonging to the train broke loose, upset a cart and bullocks, and decamped to the jungle.

We marched *ten* miles in *three* hours, and joined the force at about 1 A.M. We lighted fires and consoled ourselves in the cold open as philosophically as could be expected, until our tents came up, and then we turned in for a nap. The force again advanced leaving us behind. This time the 8-inch howitzer and two 5½-inch mortars accompanied the advanced body.

We assembled again about 10 A.M. on the 24th, and proceeded slowly, there was such an interminable line of baggage.

By 4 P.M. we had scarcely gone more than four miles from our encamping ground. The sappers were then ordered to advance ahead of this immovable line to remove, if possible, the cause of obstruction. On they went and came to a river where there were hundreds of gharies jammed together, and unable to gain the opposite bank. And so they would have remained for months, for the drivers seeing the hopelessness of the case had taken the thing in the quietest possible way. There they were, abusing each other like pickpockets, squatting down, and smoking their hubble-bubbles, while the obstruction was getting worse and worse.

The sappers piled arms and went to work in good

earnest, felling trees, cutting the road, and carrying dry sand to cover the slippery path. The carts were got over after intense labour, then came the 18-pounders, and when they arrived at the slippery incline the elephants struck—they would not move an inch further with their charge, so the heavy guns were pulled up by the Madras sappers. When this was accomplished it was near 3 o'clock in the morning of the 25th. *We bivouacked in the jungle that night*, and were up again for the march at about 6 A.M., going in advance of the guns to meet any difficulties.

We marched on through jungle, over rough ground, nullahs, and hills, and at length arrived in camp before Rhatghur about 1 P.M. on the 25th. Nothing can be more harassing than accompanying a siege-train over such a country,—nothing more gratifying than to know that by the exertion of one's troops the labour is achieved. I am convinced that no men in the world could have done better (few so well) than did our Madras sappers in their voluntary labour in this instance. They had it all their own way, and be assured they spared neither voice nor arm in the work. I saw bullock drivers and officers' servants stand by in mute amazement at what they did ; and the way they joked in Tamil and then in good *English*, seemed to astonish them still more ; however low-caste "sawmies," as they

were called, proved their value in this instance as well as in scores of others to be mentioned by-and-bye. Soldiers are not wanted to be mere dandies and *show-men*, as the high-caste villains of the Bengal army were to a considerable extent. Government require workmen, and those, too, who will not be particular about what is expected of them. No better proof of the superior qualifications of the two kinds is needed than the universal eulogy paid to the corps of Madras sappers and miners wherever they have come into contact with troops of the other presidencies.

THE SIEGE OF RHATGHUR.

The brigade arrived before Rhatghur on the morning of the 24th. The enemy appeared in the plain at the foot of the fort, occupied the town and banks of the river. After some brisk work they were driven from these positions into the fort, and there they shut themselves up to await the progress of the siege; they however reoccupied the village. The fort, said to be larger and as strong as that of Mooltan, is situated on the spur of a long high hill, and commands the country around. The east and south faces were almost perpendicular—the rock being scarped and strengthened by a deep rapid river—the Biena—running close beneath from east

to west; the north face looked along the densely jungled hill, and was strengthened by a deep ditch some twenty feet wide; the west face overlooked the town and Saugor road: in this face was the gateway flanked by several square and round bastions. The wall to the north side was strengthened by an outwork looking like a second wall. Along each face were strong bastions commanding various points, and also in the four angles. Approach from the east and south was next to impossible, approach from the west or town side almost as difficult.

After the affair of the 24th, in which we lost the subadar major of the 24th N. I., one dragoon and four sepoy of the 24th N. I., the major-general invested the place on all sides. On the east were about a thousand of the Bhopal troops; on the north and north-east were the 3rd Bombay Lt. Cavalry and sowars of the Hyderabad Contingent, the remainder of the force occupied the plain on the Saugor road and the south-west advances. To the rear of our camp were hills and jungle, and further off villages. ●

That all the rebels did not go into the fort on the 24th is certain, inasmuch as sundry camels, bullocks, and tatoes were captured by them on the 25th in the jungles in our rear, and several unfortunate camel drivers were killed.

About 3 P.M. some of the 3rd Europeans, horse

artillery, and dragoons went out in this direction, and drove them off. On the night of 24th, after the moon had gone down, the enemy attacked our pickets, and were driven back with some loss.

The enemy again attacked our pickets on the night of the 25th. Heavy firing was also heard from the side of the Bhopal troops.

Early on the morning of the 26th orders were out for the force to be in readiness for a move. The sappers and miners were ordered to prepare fascines in the jungle at the foot of the hill, and to have sand-bags in readiness. Almost before these were made the major-general and staff at the head of the 3rd Europeans came quietly from the camp round the Saugor road to the north of the hill, followed by the 18-pounders, howitzers, and mortars, and 6-pounders of the Hyderabad Contingent. The sappers then fell in, and the whole moved along from the road to the jungle. As we passed through the jungle towards the foot-path that was to lead to the summit of the fort-hill, we found ourselves in the midst of fire. The jungle-grass before, behind, and on both sides of us was in a blaze! what with the heat of the sun and the fire, we were pretty nearly roasted. The guide had lost the path, so we halted; the order to "right about face" was given, and by-and-bye we came upon the track. We had not gone far when we found ourselves jammed—

progress, save by single file, was impossible. The order "sappers to the front" was given, and away they went to cut a road up this hill for the guns. The Europeans continued to thread their way to the height, and the road was soon completed for the guns. The ascent, however, was so rugged and steep that much labour was required ere they could be dragged up to the summit.

During the time occupied in establishing ourselves on the hill, the other part of the force had moved out in three divisions. The town was then permanently occupied without resistance. A body of the enemy posted in a grove of trees to the right of the town showed some resistance, but were soon expelled after a few rounds of shot. The enemy kept up a sharp musketry fire from the fort, and from a gun on one of the bastions. By 3 P.M. the town and hill were in our possession. The fire from the north face of the fort upon the forces on the hill was kept up with great vigour the whole of the day.

The general was in the front the whole of the time, and had numerous narrow escapes of being killed. The sites for the breaching and mortar batteries were chosen under his own superintendence, and the batteries were soon erected. The mortar battery was thrown up in less than four hours. To the right of the mortar battery two

six-pounders of the Hyderabad Contingent kept up a constant fire of shot and shell upon the fort, while the Enfield rifles of the 3rd Europeans kept down the matchlock fire of the enemy.

The quartermaster of the H. C., Mr. Thompson, had two narrow escapes. One musket ball struck his leathern helmet, and a second struck him in the chest, upon a pocket-book. Several others were wounded by musket-balls.

About 11 P.M. the mortar battery opened fire. The breaching battery was completed, and the 18-pounders opened fire about 5 A.M. on the 27th at a distance of about three hundred yards. Two eight inch mortars and the howitzer played upon the fort from the plain all day on the 26th.

As soon as the breaching battery opened, the enemy concentrated a very heavy fire upon it, occasionally the bullets whizzed by like hail, and now and then wounded some one.

On the evening of the 27th a mud-tower was taken by assault close beneath the gate of the fort. A private of the 3rd Europeans was shot dead, and as the place was too exposed, and valueless when held, it was evacuated.

All day on the 28th, the breaching went on. By 10 P.M. a breach which appeared practicable was made, and an examination was determined upon. Corporal Linahan, Subadar Seelovay, and

two privates of the Madras Sappers, examined the breach under a very heavy fire from the enemy, who were evidently on the *qui vive*.

About 11 o'clock A.M. on the 28th while the breaching was steadily progressing there was a great uproar in camp. Camp followers and camel drivers came running in from the jungle in our rear almost frightened to death, and crying out that the enemy was coming down, which was indeed the fact.

On the hill and in the jungle in our rear a large force of the enemy were seen approaching with their standards flying.

The cavalry pickets engaged them. Their fire was very smart and in volleys, they also threw rockets among our men. The horse artillery, dragoons, and sowars, and 3rd Bombay Cavalry, and 5th Infantry H. C., moved out upon them. The guns could not cross the river in this place, and so opened fire from the camp side with shell and grape. They were too knowing to advance or remain in the position they had taken up, and accordingly fled back into the jungles again as fast as their legs would carry them, throwing away their muskets, flags, and other things. By the time the cavalry and infantry had crossed the river they were well off, though our troopers followed some six or seven miles, and cut up a few of them.

They managed to drive away two elephants, some dozen camels, and upwards of a hundred head of cattle they found grazing in the jungles.

These rebels were mutineers ; they had the red coat, the percussion musket, and the cut of sepoy's.

Among the things picked up on the pursuit were carved heads upon poles representing European ladies and officers' heads with bleeding throats ! In the heads of the ladies they had imitated a back comb, from which hung real human hair, and which must have belonged to some unfortunate victim, as it was so different in colour and texture to native hair.

During the time this action was going on in the plain, the enemy in the fort redoubled their fire upon the batteries. They could see as well as ourselves how the day was going, and when their friends were put to flight, contrary to their expectations, they relaxed their fire as quickly as they had increased it, and we continued to pound away as though nothing had occurred to interfere with our pursuits.

After the breach had been inspected the firing went on as usual, everybody expecting the "storm" to follow the next day. It was a very clear moonlight night and very cold on the top of the hill. The enemy only fired an occasional shot at us, and we enjoyed a quiet chat, and at length retired to our

beds in the jungle near the batteries. Our sleep was not much disturbed.

In the early hours of the morning we were up, looking about us, and speculating on the next move. We were surprised to find our enemy so very quiet; not a shot was fired from the fort, although shells were going in from our batteries every quarter of an hour.

Lieut. Strutt of the Bombay Artillery and I, noticing how quiet all was, thought we would go to the breach. We went, not a shot was fired. Lieut. Strutt jumped down into the ditch, scrambled over the rubble and up the breach, I followed. On looking into the fort not a soul was to be seen—the birds had flown; how was a mystery. One or two artillery men from the heavy-gun battery followed, and we were in possession of the fort, before a soul in camp knew they had escaped. The men of the 3rd European regiment who were posted behind the batteries began to rush into the fort. The commandant, Col. Liddel, was in a great rage, ordered them back, and placed Lieut. Strutt under arrest; he did not know who the other officer was, or I should have been in a similar position. There were only a few men left behind, and these were soon despatched. One of their sentries was found asleep in one of the bastions. There were two or three old men and women and

children in some of the houses, who informed us they had all gone away about midnight down the east face, on the side guarded by the Bhopal force.

There were a good many lying about dead in various places—also dead bullocks, horses, and ponies, yet it was astonishing to see how little harm our battering and shelling had done the many buildings.

They had a smith's shop, and were preparing to cast a gun; the stables were full of good horses, saddled and bridled, and among these was the charger of the late Lieutenant Redmayne, upon which he was killed at Mundasoore; tatoos and bullocks were chasing each other about; and among the trees and on the buildings were scores of huge monkies, chattering and bounding as though they considered our presence an intrusion; in the houses were all kinds of native camp lumber.

The news of the evacuation soon reached camp, and, by-and-bye, the general and his staff came in also by the breach.

The Hyderabad Cavalry were sent out after the rebels as soon as possible. They succeeded in cutting up a few, and making a few others prisoners. The two head men were captured. One was found squatting under a tree not far from the river, by an officer's servant. When the man went up to him, he whispered, "I am the Rajah, show me how to

escape," and promised him money. The servant told him to remain quiet, and forthwith summoned his master, who captured him. These two men were hanged over the gate-way. The majority of the enemy got clear away. The most amazing thing was to see the place from whence they had escaped. To look down the precipitous path made one giddy, —and yet down this place, where no possible footing could be seen, they had all gone—men and women—in the dead of the night ! One or two mangled bodies lay at the bottom, attesting the difficulty of the descent. Nothing but despair could have tempted them to have chosen such a way ; this was the only one, and they chose it rather than the alternative of awaiting the events of the storm.

What the Bhopal troops were about to have permitted it we never could learn.

The view of the surrounding country from the fort was very beautiful. The river winding its way along the valley ; the distant hills clothed with verdure ; the rumbling of the stream from the falls and over the loose stones as it flowed round the fort and onward to be lost among other hills ; the camp and all the variously dressed people belonging to it sauntering about in peace, bathing or washing in the clear river, presented a scene worthy the pencil of any artist !

On the 30th the sappers and miners occupied the

fort and commenced mining and demolishing the buildings. About forenoon Sir H. Rose received information that the rebels had taken up a position about eight miles off, had destroyed a village and posted themselves in another small fort. The general was soon after them with horse artillery, two five-and-a-half inch mortars, two guns of reserve battery, the 3rd Europeans, the majority of the cavalry, and a section of the Madras Sappers. About 4 o'clock we heard heavy firing.

Some short time after this we saw a line of dhoolies coming into camp with wounded; these were eight men of the 3rd Europeans, two of the 3rd Light Cavalry, and one of the H.C., more or less severely wounded. They informed us that the action had commenced on the banks of the river, which we had a few days previously found so great an impediment to our getting the siege-train to Rhatghur. About 10 o'clock P.M. a large supply of provisions came into camp from Saugor, under an escort of the 31st Bengal N.I. These men informed us that we might expect an attack upon our camp at any hour from the Saugor side of Rhatghur, as they had seen a large body of the enemy on their flank.

After crossing the river our force had had some sharp bush fighting up to a village called Barodia. The enemy were considerably cut up. They had

sent away their women and baggage previously, and then came out of the village to dispute the passage of the river, and thereby facilitate their escape. Captain Neville, of the Royal Engineers, who had joined our force the day before, was killed by a round shot striking him in the head. He fell dead from his horse. The loss of this officer was much lamented by the general. He had been all through the Crimean war—had passed days and nights in the trenches before Sebastopol, and had escaped with much honour, and in so short a time to have met death in such a manner after such a career was indeed lamentable. He was buried the day after in a little mound near the camp, all the officers of the force having followed him to his grave.

The force returned to camp about 2 A.M., having given the rebels a sound beating, but without taking their guns from them.

Thus ended the operations connected with the siege and capture of the fort of Rhatghur.

This first achievement of Sir H. Rose was not quite so bright a beginning as the general might have wished. The grand object, however, was attained, and the work executed in a manner that foreshowed to every one better times under a leader of such energy and judgment. Not a man would have escaped from this fort had the general had a

sufficient number of reliable troops. The place they chose to escape from showed how hard they must have been pressed, nor would they have given us the slip in this instance had Europeans been where the Bhopal troops were posted. An escalade might have succeeded where we breached, but this would have been attended with considerable loss to the Europeans, and at this season not an European soldier was to be spared over and above what prudence and necessity called for. The rebels were always cunning at escape, as we shall hereafter observe.

By the fall of Rhatghur we effected two most desirable objects. We could now march on to the relief of Saugor, in the fort of which city the Europeans had been shut up for an anxious period of *eight* months, constantly bordering on despair, and we had rid all the country south of Saugor of a cowardly tantalising foe, while the road from Indore thus far was again opened for communication.

For months past these rebels had been in the habit of threatening Saugor, plundering villages, and committing overt acts of villany, and again retiring to their stronghold confident of security. The *Feringhees* were no more, and they were lords of their castle, oppressing the poor and plundering the rich. The tide of affairs had at length turned,

the storm that was ere long to engulf them had overtaken them, the simoon of British anger was now blowing upon them from all quarters in terrible blasts.

RELIEF OF SAUGOR.

On the morning of 3rd February we made our entry into Saugor. It was a bright, pleasant day, pleasant it must have been to the people in Saugor. As we neared the city the Europeans came out upon elephants, horses, and in buggies, to meet us ; and on each side of the road there were swarms of natives in their bright and many coloured dresses. By-and-bye the guns of the fort fired a salute, and as we marched through the large town the bands played. The town was very crowded with people, and sauntering about the streets were the sepoy of the 31st Bengal N. I., the only regiment of the Bengal army which had remained faithful.

The Europeans looked very pale and care-worn, and well they might, after having endured so anxious an imprisonment, cut off from all escape, and packed together within the walls of the fort for so long, surrounded by bodies of the enemy who constantly harassed them, and living in the midst of a vast population of disaffected natives.

In some of the streets there were a good many sullen, diabolical looking fellows, who seemed to

wish us anywhere else. As we marched past the fort, which is situated on a hill in the town in a commanding situation, its walls were crowded with Europeans, men, women, and children. The fort appeared a very strong one. Here and there were some new works upon the old, and from most of the embrasures guns pointed out. We passed through the town close to its beautiful lake, and encamped on the right of the road beneath a barren belt of hills. The cantonment, which was in perfect repair, was in our front to the left of the road.

Small-pox was in the town, and accordingly orders were issued forbidding any one in camp to visit the place.

THE PRELIMINARIES AND CAPTURE OF THE FORT OF GURRAKOTTA.

On February 6th there was a parade of all the troops. On the 8th fifty rank and file of the Madras Sappers, with an engineer officer, marched out of Saugor for a fort and works lately occupied by the enemy at Nurraullee, some fourteen miles off. They were accompanied by details of the Bengal 31st N. I. and 42nd N. I. In September 1857 a body of bundeelahs took possession of the place, and threw up a strong stone work, about a mile in length, on either side of the village gateway, and strengthened

this work by bastions. The troops from Saugor went out for the purpose of dislodging them, and were repulsed with the loss of their commanding officer, Col. Johnson of the 42nd N. I., who was shot dead. The detachment of sappers now left with the force were then ordered out to Sanoda, about ten miles, to destroy another fort recently held by the enemy, and to cut a road for the siege-train to cross the river Beeas. Close to our encamping ground was a beautiful suspension-bridge spanning the river. It was in excellent repair, but not considered sufficiently strong for the passage of heavy guns. The whole of the materials for this bridge were obtained and worked up in the neighbourhood. The appearance of this structure, so familiar to one in England, was quite a novelty to one in this country. The river itself in this spot is very picturesque, but the addition of the elegant suspension-bridge considerably enhanced the natural beauty of the landscape.

It is surprising that this kind of bridge is not oftener met with in India, for it appears to possess great advantages over the ordinary ones. In the present instance, although the siege-train did not pass over it, I have every reason to believe it would have borne the weight of the guns separately with perfect safety. The field-batteries, and horse artillery, and baggage crossed it in one

continuous stream with very little alteration in its plane.

The villagers about Sanoda appeared to be in the deepest distress. They had been plundered of everything by mutinous sepoys and bundeelahs for months past, and were reduced to such an extreme condition of poverty as to wander through our camp seeking the undigested grains from among the dung of our cattle, and then and there to eat them !

Large quantities of grain were distributed among these poor sufferers. In one of the villages near our camp we captured a cotwal who had given the enemy every assistance in his power for months, and had exercised most undue severity towards the unoffending peasants about. This man at first told Capt. Hare he would give him much valuable information concerning the rebels in case his life was spared, which was accordingly promised on the condition that he did so the first thing in the morning.

When the morning came he denied being able to say anything, and maintained a dogged silence. Three hours were allowed him to reconsider the value of his existence, at the end of which time he was to be hanged if he persisted in the lie. What effect the night's sleep had had upon him it is hard to say, at the end of these three anxious hours he chose rather to die like a dog than tell the truth.

He was accordingly marched to a tree, an empty bullock-cart was driven under it, into which he mounted, and, blindfolded, waited the horrid moment of strangulation. The noose was arranged around his neck, the bullock's tail screwed and away went the cart, and he dropped dangling from a mimosa branch, and thus died. Probably he discredited such summary punishment.

The force was now on the march for the fort of Gurrakotta, in which the mutinous 51st and 52d Bengal regiments, with large bodies of other rebels, had made a stand, and from whence they had annoyed this part of the country for a long time past.

After a very fatiguing march of about 25 miles we sighted the fort, having halted on our way at Shapore to breakfast, and hang a few more rebels. When we arrived at Shapore we learnt that the enemy had only left that place some two hours before, so the general determined to push on, and leaving the ordinary road to our left, we forced our way through a very difficult jungly path over some hills, and at length came up on a cavalry picket of the enemy, some four or five miles from Gurrakotta. While we were passing over the hills we surprised an infantry outpost. They were driven before us by the Bombay 24th N. I. and the 3rd Europeans, leaving their kit behind them. The day was well

nigh spent when the column halted ; marching through the jungle, skirmishing and halting, and stoaling upon the enemy, was most trying to the troops ; the sun was very powerful, and there was scarcely a shadow to creep into, and having to halt every thirty or forty yards from hour to hour eventually overpowered most of the men.

The Bombay 3rd Light Cavalry, the 3rd Europeans, and 24th N. I. preceded the column when we neared the fort. The cavalry captured five men of the enemy's picket. These the major-general ordered to be taken to the rear and shot. They were taken some distance on our left flank, and despatched by the Bombay Cavalry as desired.

By 3.30 P.M. we were on our encamping ground. The general was making a reconnaissance, and about 6 P.M. we marched to our places, got our tents pitched, and made the best of a very rough dinner. Our baggage arrived after midnight.

Soon after our camp was pitched, round shot came in among our tents from the enemy's guns in the fort. They also fired rockets at us.

The general did not return to camp till nearly 8 o'clock that night. How he endured so much was surprising to every one, nor was it the most agreeable thing for his staff. The enemy had erected some very creditable earth-works upon the road to the south, from whence they *expected* our arrival,

and they occupied the village near the fort in some force. To oust them from this position the horse artillery took ground upon an open and rather elevated spot in front of our camp, and commenced a brisk cannonade upon them. The enemy sounded their bugles and advanced in force at a double upon our guns ; they were, however, repulsed by the 3rd Europeans ; they again formed up and advanced in great steadiness, and this time got very near to the guns, but again gave way and fell back in great disorder, some flying towards the fort, others to the south ; these the Hyderabad Cavalry followed and cut up. A breaching battery was then erected opposite the west face. The 24-pound howitzer was at work all day on the 12th, and soon silenced the enemy's guns. One large gun annoyed us a good deal. It was worked well, and we could see the enemy in their red coats loading and firing it. Lieut. Strutt of the Bombay Artillery fought this gun admirably, and at length knocked it from the embrasure. After this no further annoyance from them was experienced. The 18-pounders played upon the fort all the evening and through the night. Early on the morning of the 13th we could see the enemy escaping in great numbers from the fort gate. We ceased firing, and by-and-bye marched down with the 3rd Europeans to the fort, to find that all had escaped in the night-time. Capt. Hare, with

the Hyderabad Cavalry, pursued them some twenty-five miles and completed the work. A great number were slain and made prisoners, as was also a good deal of their plunder captured. Thus, the 51st and 52nd mutinous sepoy were punished, and the beautiful little fort of Gurrakotta fell into our hands.

A guard of the 3rd Europeans occupied the fort, and the Madras and Bombay Sappers commenced the work of demolition.

It was abundantly stored with grain, flour, cloth, sugar, spices, and other commissariat articles. There was an infinitude of such lumber as natives love to hoard : bags full of bangles, bracelets, anklets, and rings ; boxes full of miniature mariner's compasses, English loot—steel pens, and paper. The sacks of flour were the largest I ever saw in my life, they resembled huge hogsheads, men must have mounted ladders to have filled them. Here and there was a dead bullock, tattoo, or man, and everywhere little heaps of bullets and gunpowder.

Several of the dead sepoy wore their medals round their necks, and we found the buttons of some seven Bengal regiments upon various shell-jackets about. Near the gun from which we had been so annoyed, and which was silenced by Lieut. Strutt, were three bodies ; one of these was the body of a havildar, the other two were privates. The last shot from the howitzer had killed these men.

The enemy had evidently provided for a long sojourn in this place, and from its natural position and structure it appeared eminently suited to the purposes of guerilla warfare. The fort stands upon an elevated angle of ground, the wide deep river Sonar washing the east face, a tributary stream—the Gidaree nullah—with precipitous banks flowing around the west and north faces, to the south is the strong gate-way flanked by bastions, and a ditch about twenty feet deep and thirty wide. This ditch ran round the west face also. On the opposite side of the river is the well-built town of Gurrakotta, about one mile from the fort.

Report says that this fort stood a three weeks' siege some forty years ago, and that the garrison eventually capitulated to Brigadier Watson, C.B., who, with twenty-eight pieces of ordnance, found it impossible to effect a breach. Marks of shot still were visible in several places, and in others the present enemy had repaired the damages done to its walls and bastions.

The south-west wall of the fort was blown down on the evening of the 15th, and a company of the 31st Bengal N.I. under Lieut. Dickins, remained in charge of the enormous heaps of grain which still remained after our force had conveyed away to Saugor as much as they had carriage for.

In a conversation with this officer upon the pro-

bable cause of this regiment not having joined in the general rebellion, he stated that the only reason he could give was the fact that the officers, perhaps, understood their men better than others. The company under his command had all through evinced a willingness to obey to the letter, and had on several occasions met small bodies of the enemy, who had taunted them with their allegiance, and had in each instance behaved as well as men could be expected. He was an excellent linguist, and appeared to be thoroughly acquainted with the native character, and the native officers to appreciate his.

There appears to be a good deal of reason in this simple statement. As a rule I fear we do not enter into a sufficiently exact analysis of the native character, while it is well known that no one in the world forms a quicker or juster estimate of our actions than they do.

An unfortunate private of the Bombay Sappers got into disgrace here. He was found leaving the fort in charge of a camel upon which a few handfuls of flour and a little ghee and other trifles had been secreted. Looting of every kind was strictly prohibited by the general—even the few ounces of flour and morsel of ghee were not to be appropriated, and so the man in charge of the camel was placed in arrest to await his trial for disobedience of orders.

We returned for Saugor, after the column, on the

16th. As we passed along the road we had marched on a few days before, we came to the spot where the five men had been shot, and there lay their five skeletons bleaching in the sun in the same position as they had fallen, and we were again surprised to find the poor villagers in our route back picking among the dung on the road for grains to convert into food. Destitution could scarcely be worse than this ! The poor wretches appeared verging on the last stage of starvation ! As we re-crossed the suspension bridge, the body of the budmash we had hanged upon the mimosa tree, the day we cut the road for the siege guns at the river Beas, still hung there, and the jackalls had eaten away the two legs as far as the knees. It was a horrid sight !

We rejoined the force in Saugor on the 17th, and *now had a few days rest before us.*

The capture of the fort of Gurrakotta, and the escape of the enemy, was another instance of the difficulty formerly experienced of totally entrapping our foe. Here, again, the position of the fort was so admirably chosen, that nothing short of a far larger force than the general had at his disposal could have ensured such an investment as would have prevented the escape of the enemy, favoured as they were in their flight by the river and the densely wooded undulated ground south of the fort. The fort, however, fell into our hands in a short

time, and the enemy on this side of Saugor was disposed of, so that the major-general now had an unopposed basis for the important operations that were to follow in the campaign.

In almost every instance of encounter with these once famed Bengal sepoys, we observe that they always supposed we should attack them in *one* direction only, and they accordingly threw up works to oppose us in that position they imagined we should of necessity choose. Of course, the general had information of this, and then painfully proved to these rebels the feasibility of operating from quite a contrary direction, and when they saw this, and the utter uselessness of all their works of defence, they no longer attempted an opposition—the little sneaking ambush courage they possessed speedily oozed away, and like assassins and thieves they made the best use of their heels in the dark hours of night.

CHAP. V.

General prepares to march upon Jhansi.—Court-martial on Bombay sapper.—March of the force.—Affair at fort of Barodia.—Troops benighted.—Forcing Malthon and Mudanpore passes.—Defeat of the Rajah of Shahghur.—Fort and garden of Sorai.—Murrowra.—Annexation of territory of Shahghur.—Baunpore.—Destruction of palace.—Tal-Behut.—Capture of fort of Chandaree.—Investment of Jhansi.—The siege.—Arrival of Tantia-Topee.—The “Battle of the Betwa.”—The “storm.”—The capture.—The palace.—Escape of the Ranee of Jhansi.

SIR H. ROSE was now preparing for a long march to the north, and a scarcity of provisions was anticipated by large supplies daily arriving in camp from Bhopal and other places. All who could get boots laid in a stock, and the messes provided themselves with all kinds of European articles, and beer, soda water, and wines as largely as possible. The Parsee shopkeepers at Saugor proved most invaluable friends to us; although they charged us exorbitantly then, as the future proved, they were most moderate when compared with other merchants further north. Those who laid in what would appear an *excessive*

quantity of beer at that time were truly fortunate in the hereafter. The little experience we had already had of the state of the country beyond Saugor was very ominous. The season was becoming hotter every day, and we had every reason to believe that the districts we were about to march through would afford us little or nothing in the way of commissariat, as almost all of them, from Saugor to Cawnpore, were in the hands of the rebels and disaffected chiefs, and their enmity, added to the withering effects of a hot season, would not be likely to leave us a blade of grass, or a grain of corn in a few weeks hence. The general wisely foresaw all this, and took means to provide for his force accordingly. Sheep and goat, and oxen, and grain and flour, and large supplies of tea, and soda water for the sick and wounded, were collected together with all possible speed. A military train had been established from Bombay, which was to follow and aid our force in many various ways.

The sick and wounded were transferred to the field-hospital in Saugor, to be sent away at a fitting period, or to rejoin the force when opportunity presented.

The siege-train was re-supplied from the arsenal with a large amount of ammunition, and strengthened by the addition of other heavy guns, howitzers, and large mortars. Many more elephants were

obtained, and the ordnance and engineering parks were especially strengthened. The 3rd European regiment changed their relaxing and highly injurious uniform for one especially adapted to the season and country, and they now dressed in a loose stone coloured cotton blouse and trousers, and pagree of the same colour. This was a most judicious step, as the men could bear considerably more fatigue with comparative comfort while at the distance of half a mile they were almost invisible.

Nothing can be more baneful to European troops in India than the dress worn by them in England and other temperate climates. It is amazing to think that the authorities did not alter this a century ago. We cannot be surprised at the excessive mortality of British troops in India, when we reflect that they have had to combat the fearful effects of a tropical climate from year to year trussed up in uniform only suited to England or the Polar regions. Not more ridiculous would it appear to see an Icclander enveloped in his furs in this country, because such is the uniform worn in *his* mother country, than it is to see our poor fellows buttoned up to the chin in a heavy tight-fitting dress, such as they wore in chilly and frosty England.

It is to be hoped that all European troops coming to this country will be permitted to leave their use-

less and enervating dress behind them, and have one of a light and suitable material provided in its stead.

During the time these preparations for the march towards Jhansi were maturing, a district court-martial had been held upon the private of the Bombay sappers who was under arrest for looting at the fort of Gurrakotta.

Lieut. Dick, Bombay Engineers, was in command of this detachment of sappers, and from his investigation of the affair, firmly believed the man to be innocent of the crime imputed to him. The man was in charge of the camel coming out of the fort, but asserted his total ignorance of the loot in question being upon him. Another might have done this, it was true, but as there was no proof of his innocence, further than his own word, the evidence appeared much against him.

At his trial the poor fellow was frightened by the ordeal and pleaded guilty, and, it would appear, contradicted himself.

Lieut. Dick was called upon for his evidence, and left the court fully impressed with the belief that the man would be acquitted.

Shortly after dinner the order book was brought in, in which a parade of troops on the following morning was ordered for the punishment and dismissal of the prisoner.

This astonished most of us, and Lieut. Dick, sincerely impressed with the innocence of the prisoner, declared that he could not conscientiously see a good man thus disgraced, without further protesting in his behalf, and using every lawful means for his honourable acquittal.

Some technical informality appeared upon the face of the proceedings, and after consultation with other officers, he sent in an official to the brigadier that night, requesting a postponement of the parade that the man might be tried by an European court. Lieut. Dick was evidently much affected, and awaited with some anxiety for an answer to his communication—none came.

On the morning of the 22nd, the troops paraded and formed three sides of a square.

The preamble of the crime, and the sentence was read aloud, and translated to the native troops. Then Capt. Todd, the brigade-major, was seen to read a paper and to go up to the brigadier, who then read it. He seemed much disconcerted by its contents, and then the prisoner said aloud that he desired to be tried by an European general court-martial. The brigadier then rode up to Lieut. Dick, and said, "Lieut. Dick, I've to thank you for this," and the parade was dismissed,—the man still a prisoner, and Lieut. Dick ordered under arrest by the brigadier! This surprised a good many, but

mostly Lieut. Dick, who had acted all through with so good a motive.

Another court sat upon the prisoner, and this day's order book informed us that he was sentenced to receive fifty lashes, to be branded with the letter "M," for mutinous conduct on parade, and to undergo *seven* years' imprisonment—every other of which was to be solitary, and the medical officer in charge was ordered to "be prepared to brand the prisoner with the letter 'M'!"

Poor Lieut. Dick was much affected by this extraordinary decision of the court, and more particularly so since the prisoner's antecedents had been unblemished. He had served Government *nine* years and some months, without a single default as a sapper, and it seemed improbable that a man of such good conduct should lay himself open to such disgrace for so paltry an offence as the one he now stood sentenced upon; and there was reason to believe another was guilty of the crime. But the sentence had gone forth, and the man who had thus served Government was to be branded as a mutineer, flogged, and imprisoned for seven years!

Mutineers and murderers have since fared better.

Early on the 25th the troops paraded again for punishment, and branding of the prisoner. There was no mistake this time. The troops formed three sides of a square as before, and in the centre was an

empty cart. The sentence was read out as before, and the prisoner led to the cart. The brigadier then inquired of the medical officer in charge if he had "come prepared to brand the man with the letter 'M'!"

The medical officer replied that he had not. When asked if he had seen the orders directing him to do so, he said that he had, but that as the art and science of *branding* formed no part of *his* professional education, and as an order to the effect that it formed no part of a military surgeon's *duty* had long ago been issued from the "Horse Guards," he had only come prepared to *superintend* the infliction of the punishment, and if the prisoner were then capable of undergoing the branding to *superintend* that also. The man was then flogged *secundum artem*, and the troops marched back to camp.

The health of the troops continued very good; the bands played every evening; a few evening parties were got up in the station; there was a picnic to the beautiful lake near the fort; and great and constant conviviality in the various messes and camp.

We were on the eve of a long and trying march north—months would pass away ere another such respite could be dreamed of, and if we could place any reliance on the reports in camp of the work in store for us, we certainly had every reason to take

pleasure by the hand and "be merry while we may;" so there was music and feasting in all due order; and days of promotion, and days of receipt of gratuity for service wounds, and birth days, and other memorable occasions, were celebrated with rejoicings.

These scenes were soon to change to the "roughings" and night bivouac of the jungle, to the hurried cup of tea and hard biscuit before starting on the mid-night march, and to the unremitting fatigue of a harassing campaign in a scorching season and wasted country.

MARCH TO JHANSI.

By this time everything was arranged for a start on the march—the city of Jhansi being our destination. Accordingly the camp was roused at 2 A.M. on the morning of the 27th, and the force moved off over a belt of hills through a narrow pass to their first halting ground at Raneepoor.

Major Orr's column of the Hyderabad Contingent started the evening before upon another route to march parallel with our own. Directly our force had marched off the ground at Saugor several large rockets were seen to shoot up into the dark sky from the centre of the city. The enemy had evidently had their spies in our camp, who were

now telegraphing the departure of our troops to their friends north of us.

After the march was over a parade of the officers of the force was ordered to assemble at the brigadier's flag-staff in the afternoon. This was for the purpose of publicly reprimanding Lieut. Dick for his conduct in the late business of the court-martial at Saugor. A most severe and lengthy reprimand, delivered in very caustic strains with much agitation of manner, was then read out to the assembly by Brigadier Steuart, 14th Lt. Dragoons.

Lieut. Dick was told that summary dismissal from the service could alone have answered the ends of military law, had not youth, ignorance, and inexperience pleaded in extenuation of his conduct. He had, it was remarked, struck at the root of all good military order and discipline, to the subversion of the most important duties of a soldier; he was then released from his arrest, and deprived of his command.

From that hour every spark of honourable ambition and military ardour seemed quenched in his breast; he appeared to give over his papers and charge like a man who signs his last will and testament, and quietly awaits the hour of death.

Lieut. Dick's grave misdemeanor lay in pointing out a few informalities, and in recommending a good man to the judgment of an European court

more likely to do justice to a prisoner than a native one ; and this he did with the noblest possible motives couched in terms of respect, and prompted by a deep sense of his own conscientious behaviour. His lot was indeed a hard one.

The next morning we were roused by the bugle at 2 A.M. The column had not pressed off the ground more than a mile when rockets again were seen shooting up into the sky at regular intervals in front of us.

A mile or two ahead of our force, on an elevated piece of ground, a bright beacon fire was blazing up and then some seven or eight hundred yards in advance of this another burst up in flames, and as the column marched on and on, another and another bright fire shone out of the dark masses of jungle on the different hills, first on our right, then on our left, until the morning rendered them useless. Around each of these fires were three or four natives, suspicious looking men, but they swore they were only preparing for a feast when captured by the dragoons. No doubt this was a well-devised means of warning the enemy of our approach ; nothing could be better than a chain of these fires for the purpose, and few things carry an air of such apparent innocence and simplicity, for what more natural than that men should make a fire in the jungles in the cold hours of the morning, or one for

a feast ! The road was tolerably good, though up hill almost all the way. The plains on either side were generally well cultivated, and the hills covered with dense jungle. We were now nearing the *Malthon-pass*, where strong opposition was expected from the enemy, who had placed guns so as to command the pass, and had a strong body of infantry and cavalry posted there. We halted near the village of Rajwas, and pitched camp in a flat surrounded on three sides by high hills.

About two miles from our camp to the north was another village and a small strongly-built fort on the spur of a long hill above the village. This fort immediately commanded the road leading to the pass, and was named the fort of Barodia. Towards afternoon some one who had been out looking about the neighbourhood of the camp went so close to this fort, which was thought deserted, as to call down the matchlock fire of a body of the enemy, who still kept possession of it. This signal was enough, and about 3 P.M. a few guns, a couple of mortars, infantry, and cavalry were sent out to drive the enemy out of this little den.

After some shelling and knocking open the gate, the enemy were seen escaping over the fort wall into the jungle on the hill.

A good deal of musketry firing then took place in the jungle, and the enemy there sustained some

loss. The 3rd Bombay Light Cavalry pursued around the hill by the road, but failed in doing much on account of the dense jungles.

When the fort was taken possession of, only one or two men were found inside; one had both legs recently broken, and his friends had cut his throat before parting ! .

By this time the sun had set, and dark masses of clouds rolled thicker and thicker over the sky ; . flashes of lightning were followed by deep peals of thunder, and then the rain began to pour down unmercifully. We had scarcely turned our faces towards camp when we found ourselves enveloped in darkness dense as Erebus. We lost our road, although we were so short a distance away, and went on stumbling through nullahs and bushes, while sheets of lightning flashed over us, frightening our horses, and rendering the path doubly difficult to find. The cavalry and artillery bugles were sounding in various directions, we could see the camp fires, hear horses neighing, but could not get into camp. At length, after blundering about till nearly 9 o'clock at night, we passed the sentries, and eventually found our quarters, wet through and tired. Long after we were comfortable under our canvas, we heard the imploring cries of the cavalry bugles from those who could not find their way home. Some, I believe, did not get into camp

till past midnight. Such a circumstance is hardly credible, nor could we credit our own difficulties while the camp fires were so plainly visible to us, but of one thing I am quite certain, viz., that nothing is more difficult than to find one's way home at night through a camp, particularly if it be a large one. •

We halted the next day on account of the good folk who lost their road that night, although the general had determined to push on, and had issued orders to that effect.

At first it was determined to destroy this fort, and then it was thought advisable to put it into a state of defence as a postal station from whence to keep up communication with the marching column and Saugor.

Accordingly, Lieut. Prendergast, Madras Engineers, with a section of the Madras Sappers, and a company of Khoonds—a semi-barbarous, undisciplined body of levies recently raised from the hill districts—took possession.

These Khoonds* were most extraordinary fellows. When they marched they seemed to keep on the jog-trot, laughing and joking, and carrying their arms as one would imagine of a wild Irish mob; they seemed possessed of no scruples of caste, and

* A hill people from the jungles, about the source of the river Nerbudda

were always willing to go anywhere and do anything where there was a chance of looting a rag or a lota. They appeared to be the very best of material from whence to mould a useful corps, but at present, as might be expected, were in the roughest possible form.

With these Khoonds, then, Lieut. Prendergast was left in charge of the hill fort of Barodia, with a few sappers to put it in a state of repair and defence.

He posted guards for the night, and in his rounds invariably found them asleep and had to kick them up. They seemed never to imagine that they were not to sleep on their posts! What did they think of or care for any enemy? They were inside a fort, had shut the gate, and that was enough. With such a garrison one may imagine that an European officer would scarcely feel at home or very comfortable, and would be happy to get off to safer and more civilized company.

On the morning of the 3rd March the general devised a movement against the enemy in our front of a very important kind. The Pass of Malthon, naturally a very strong obstacle to the advance of an army, was held by the enemy in force; every day was of importance, so that the general determined to gain the table land above these hills by a flank movement through the Pass of Mudanpore

into the territory of the Rajah of Shahghur, who was in arms against us, while he made a feint in the enemy's front at the strong Pass of Malthon.

Accordingly, about 2 A.M. the 24th Bombay N. I., three guns, Bhopal Artillery, and a howitzer under Capt. Lightfoot, a body of 14th Light Dragoons, and 3rd Cavalry, all under the command of Major Scudamore, moved off for the Malthon Pass, while the remainder of the force, again strengthened by the junction of the Hyderabad Contingent, moved quietly from the encamping ground about 5 A.M. for the Mudanpore Pass.

FORCING THE PASS.

We marched along the foot of a long range of hills for a distance of about five or six miles, and then began to enter upon the almost pathless route for the Mudanpore Pass. As the column moved quietly along into a horse-shoe kind of plateau with hills densely clad with jungle on both sides towards the gorge, a heavy fire was opened upon the leading bodies from the enemy's guns and infantry in their front.

This was rather a surprise to us, and the news quickly passed along the long line that our artillery and infantry were already engaged with a strong force of the enemy.

As we gradually neared up towards the front the fire of our guns rapidly increased, and in the intervals we heard heavy volleys of musketry. The hills on our right and our left were crowded with the infantry of the enemy ; the pass and the brushwood immediately before it were held by their artillery, cavalry, and infantry in force.

By this time we had arrived within sight of the engagement, and then we saw our horse artillery blazing away into the masses of their infantry in our front near the pass, while the infantry of the Hyderabad Contingent and 3rd Europeans were clearing the hills on our flanks.

The enemy held their cover with considerable firmness for a long time, and their fire was so galling and heavy that our guns were ordered by the general to retire some yards. Ere this could be done the fire was so fierce that the artillerymen had to take shelter behind their guns ; several were wounded, and the general had his horse shot, and narrowly escaped death several times.

The bullets fell about like hail-stones. The artillery retired and re-opened fire, and by this time the guns of the Hyderabad Contingent opened with shell upon the enemy's masses in the jungle left of the pass. Then the 3rd Europeans and Hyderabad Infantry charged into the jungle, while the guns poured shell upon the enemy over their heads.

They were now seen flying in great numbers over the hills to our right and left and through the pass. The Hyderabad Infantry and 3rd Europeans were upon them, while the Hyderabad Cavalry and dragoons dashed across the plain and through the pass after them.

The day was now ours. The main body of the enemy had fled through the pass with their guns, around a large tank, and into the town of Mudanpore. We then moved on quickly through the pass, brought up our howitzers to the front, and again the enemy opened their guns upon us from behind the tank wall. Their fire soon ceased, however, and the troops advanced through the town, and halted to breathe awhile and quench their thirst. The hills all round were scoured by our infantry, and the rebels found in their jungles were despatched.

After a short halt, the Hyderabad Cavalry were sent in pursuit, and right well did they do their work. They came up with the tail of the enemy's force, cut up a great number and captured many—among others, the astrologer of the Rajah of Shahghur. They followed the enemy some miles over hills and through jungle, and at length came up to the fort of Sorai, where their work ended. They were reported to have slain upwards of three hundred of the enemy.

As we marched through the pass, many of their bodies lay about ; some were those of sepoy's, some of bundeelahs. While the fighting in the jungle was going on, several characteristic incidents relating to the Khoonds occurred. No sooner did one of them or anybody else shoot down a rebel, than three or four of them rushed upon the fallen foe, threw down their muskets, and commenced forthwith a scramble for the belt and pouch, the pagree, the jacket, the waistband, and the pice it might contain ; and there they were in the midst of fighting, bawling away and laughing, like human vultures ; then they shouldered arms and trotted off with a couple of pouch belts, perhaps, over their shoulders, and two or three pagrees on their heads. When they got into the town, they seemed to think there was nothing more to be done than to batter open the cottage doors and hunt out the vile rags and broken pots left behind by the inhabitants, who had fled also to the jungles.

I remember while we sat down to rest a short time near the town, a shot was heard immediately in our rear. On looking round to the spot from whence the sound came, I saw a man drop down from a high tamarind tree on to the roof of a cottage ; he fell like lead, and died a moment or two after. The man who shot him thought he had achieved a great feat, and reloaded his musket with

considerable resolution, while he repeatedly impressed the fact upon his bronzed brethren, "I killed him."

As soon as the troops had rested, we moved off again to end a glorious day in the most wearisome after march perhaps we ever endured. The sun was very hot; the late excitement had done its work, and as the troops marched and countermarched, halted and crept along, examining villages, sheds, and jungles, they began to fall out in twos and threes, to cry frequently for the water-carrier, and to go into a sound sleep in the sun if a ten minutes' halt occurred. At length, weary and foot-sore, parched and exhausted, we halted near the village of Pepeeria, where the artillery and infantry, dragoons, camels, carts and followers all got jammed together in a confused mass for a long time in a kind of horse-shoe piece of ground below the village, around which ran a deep wide stream; this continued to get worse as the baggage poured in, and there seemed no end to our present woes at hand. At length the "camp-markers" marked out our camp above the village, and little by little we wound ourselves back from the maze we had got into, and in the dark groped our way to our respective places, waited till about 9 o'clock, and then threw ourselves beneath our tents, glad to lie down anywhere without our beds, and rest our

wearied limbs—for we had marched close upon twenty miles. Although the troops had gone through a very hard day's work, they bore all their fatigue with the best possible spirit. Sir Hugh Rose was heard to say he had never been under hotter fire in his life, for the time it lasted, than he was in while forcing this pass. The infantry opposed to us were mostly mutinous sepoys. Capt. Abbot of Hyderabad Contingent obtained several of their medals, which he took from the slain after their pursuit.

Their leader, once a havildar major, was slain. He was so enormously fat that his tattoo could not carry him quick enough to elude our cavalry. The Rajah of Shahghur had escaped, and his astrologer, who was now in our hands, confessed that he had been mistaken in his prediction of the fitting day for the annihilation of the Feringhees. He evidently had read the stars through a glass darkly that night, and had woefully proved himself a false prophet.

We were now encamped within sight of the fort of Sorai, which lay some three miles east of our camp, on the top of a solitary hill. The sappers marched to this fort the next day for the purpose of destroying it. The general and his staff also rode over to examine the place.

The fort was a little well-built keep on the top of

a hill, commanding an extensive view of the surrounding plains. At its foot was a small deserted village, and on the north side of the village was the beautiful garden and the *sarai* of the Shahghur Rajah. The fort was very filthy, and full of rubbish.

A more lovely place than this garden was could not well be imagined for a country like India, and I cannot pass on without giving something of a picture of what it was when ~~we~~ resided in it, while the work of destruction was being carried on in the fort.

In the centre of this extensive enclosure was the seraglio of the Rajah, overshadowed by mango and guava trees, and embowered by groves of orange and citron trees, laden with golden fruit and sweet-smelling blossoms.

In front of the doorways were jessamine and myrtles, and roses, oleanders, and camellias and pomegranates in full bloom, and in tiny and tastefully laid out flower beds, reaching away on all four sides, were variegated poppies and marigolds, verbenas, hollyhocks, lilies, and feathery larkspurs, interspersed with little plots of sweet-smelling thyme, mint, borages, and Damascus roses; and in and out of these beds partridges, minars, and parrots strutted and fluttered about as though they alone were the lords of this *Elysium*. Then there were bowers of roses and jessamine, and, further off,

clusters of orange, and citron, and peach trees, all in blossom, hedged in by long lines of rose bushes. Then beyond these were beds of "Windsor beans," trellis-work covered with "French beans;" then onion, lettuce, beet-root, and asparagus beds, long rows of plantains, and a host of other good vegetables for the table. The whole was enclosed by fine tamarind and mango trees, in which scores of enormous monkeys kept up a constant "hoo-hooing" and chattering all day. I never saw such huge specimens of these before; some of them were as large as calves, and "hoo-hoo'd" as loud as any asthmatic old man, from sunrise to sunset. In the garden there was also a pretty little temple, a large bowree, from whence water was drawn all day by bullocks for the purpose of irrigation and drinking, and a large stone-built, corridored *chahbachcha*, or cistern, self supplied with most excellent water; this made a capital bath.

This garden was the pleasantest spot we ever had the good fortune of pitching in during this campaign. We were cool all the day; enjoyed all that the garden produced for table *ad libitum*; the wood doves cooing in the early morning; then the songs of other birds, and the plaintive notes of the bull-bull at night.

The little fort was rendered useless in all due time.

The force marched next upon Murrowra, about twelve miles north, where there was another large fort, and a deserted town of some size, full of Hindu temples. The fort had been recently repaired by the enemy, but was deserted. South of this fort is a large tank of *very* pure water, and good encamping ground. On the 7th the British flag was hoisted upon a bastion of the fort, a proclamation of annexation of the territory was read, the artillery fired a royal salute, the bands played "God save the Queen," and the Rajah of Shahghur was disinherited!

The force under the command of Major Scudamore, 14th L. Dragoons, rejoined after having had a slight engagement with the enemy at the Malthon Pass. The flank movement of the major-general and the defeat of the army under the Rajah of Shahghur at the Mudanpore Pass fully accomplished his designs. The enemy at Malthon received early warning of the results of the battle; they could hear our firing, and, when the enemy at the pass before us gave way, they fled through the jungles over the hills towards Malthon, and then their friends there joined them in a general flight, a few only remaining behind to oppose the advance of the force sent against them by the major-general.

A few miles from our camp was the town of

Shahghur, and the little independent state of Theree, friendly towards us.

It was feared that the enemy would march upon Theree and loot the town of the Ranee, so the Hyderabad Contingent was ordered to march upon Shahghur and Theree to afford assistance in that quarter if needed. •

On the 9th March we started for Baunpore. The villages we now passed were all deserted, a few half-starved oxen and pariah dogs appeared their sole occupants. We met some twenty villagers, who stated that they came from Chandaree, and had left the town on account of the fighting going on between the first brigade and the enemy who held that strong fortress. As we neared our encamping ground opposite Baunpore, we heard the sounds of very heavy firing at regular intervals from the west. This came from Chandaree, and was the sound of the siege guns of our first brigade breaching the fort there.

The town of Baunpore was almost as deserted as the villages we had passed on our march. The palace of the Rajah was a very extensive building, and in it were found great quantities of property belonging to different officers of the Bengal army—boxes and clothes, books, and surveying instruments, private letters, and beds. Besides these things there

were heaps of tents, palkies, broken carriages, moulds for guns, and palace lumber.

Dr. O'Brien, formerly in the Gwalior Contingent, and now doing duty with the Bombay 3rd Europeans, which corps he joined at Saugor, discovered among the recovered loot a camphor-wood box, mathematical instruments, and letters belonging to him, which he had left in his flight from Lullutpore many months before. He had suffered severely, with several others, in their long flight to Saugor ; had since been paralyzed, and was now on his way to Calcutta for England. His tales of woe were very sad indeed, and it appeared a marvel how they had endured their privation and suffering as fugitives so long.

Major Boileau was ordered to destroy this palace, and accordingly, in the evening of the 11th, part of it was blown down, and huge fires lighted in other apartments ; by nightfall it was burning brilliantly—like a grand bonfire.

One of the rooms of this palace was covered all over with allegorical pictures painted upon the plaster ; some of them were historical and fierce enough, others highly obscene, others eminently childish. The relics of women and children always abounded in these places ; no room was without some plaything or bangle, or hand punkah ; and

reams of native paper and manuscripts lay strewn about everywhere, and the atmosphere of the whole place smelt strongly of frankincense and myrrh, aniseed, benzoin, and other delicate native perfumes. Sounds of heavy firing continued to reach us from the west, and were heard all through the night.

We marched from Baunpore at an early hour on the morning of the 12th, the palace still a burning pile, for the town and fort of Tal-Behut. The Hyderabad Contingent preceded us. We arrived before Tal-Behut about 6 A.M. on the morning of the 14th, and found Major Orr's force encamped on the plain west of the fort.

When the Hyderabad Contingent arrived at Tal-Behut, a body of the enemy held the fort; they exchanged a few round shot with Major Orr, and then at night made the best of their way from the place, so that when we arrived there we found our progress north, to our astonishment, unopposed, although, perhaps, no fort we moved against in this campaign presented greater difficulties for an army to surmount than did that of Tal-Behut, had it been held by a determined foe.

I scarcely remember ever having seen a prettier natural picture than the fort of Tal-Behut, occupying the whole of one extensive hill, mirrored on the bright surface of the large lake which spreads from its foot far away to other distant hills rosy and

blue in tufts of soft jungle foliage, with the white tents of our troops pitched in the high grass to the westward, the bright sunrise flooding the heavens with crimson and gold in vivid fan-like beams of light, while our troops marched along the border of the lake, and the wild fowl flew in hundreds above it, screaming and darting into its quiet, weedy waters !

It seemed a pity that the ruthless hand of rebellion should have touched such a spot more favoured by nature for romance than the dread realities of war ; and yet war would add interest to its history by new deeds of tragedy as it had done in years gone by, for there is a story of how it had withstood a siege against the Scindiah of former days, and how they erected batteries upon rafts on the lake for its reduction under a famous General Yacob, and how it fell into this general's hands after a weary resistance.

The fort works occupied the whole of the hill. There were two strong lines of works strengthened by bastions and loop-holed, and above these the citadel and fort buildings, temples, and towers. The lowest line ran along the margin of the lake and round the whole hill. From this line to the second there were gardens and pasture-grounds and jetties leading into the lake ; a sort of palace also looked into the lake from this range. Between the second and the fort proper were other gardens,

temples, and jungle, and high above all was the citadel commanding the town to the north-west, and the surrounding country. The whole was well built and in good repair.

The temple in the fort was full of little gods in all possible postures; these were generally brass. Some of them had tiny silver anklets and bangles on, and little nose-rings of gold on which hung pearls and rubies; there was also a vast collection of brazen pots and cups and bells, and gods of stone and gods of wood, and several Brahmin priests.

The town was almost deserted, though it had every appearance of being inhabited by people of the better class of natives. During our halt here a breach was made in the fort wall on the north side, and some guns found there were burst. Two Europeans were sadly blown up in this latter business by the explosion of some loose gunpowder. There was also some little hanging of prisoners carried on.

We were superabundantly supplied with snipe and teal, and duck from the tank, and peacock from the jungle. The wildfowl were more numerous here than we had known them anywhere, the "bags," accordingly, were overcrowded with spoil. However, they were purchased at some expense, for the

sun was now more than hot, and this had to be endured in a little open boat upon the lake for the game in quest. When the sportsmen returned to camp, soda-water and beer to a vast amount disappeared, and much they needed and deserved it. The objects of their toils graced our table in the evening, and nothing was more acceptable when one reflected on tough goat and tougher stuff called beef. We had not heard from Chandaree for some time. The letters sent from either camp must have been stopped by rebels on the road, for none reached us. The major-general naturally became anxious about the first brigade, and despatched Capt. Hare, with the Hyderabad troops under his command, to communicate with them; this was effected, and Capt. Hare returned to Tal-Behut the next day.

On the 16th the Madras and Bombay Sappers with the Hyderabad Contingent marched off to the left bank of the river Betwa, about eight miles from camp, Tal-Behut.

The general had ordered the chief engineer, Major Boileau, to construct a bridge across that river, as it was thought the artillery could not pass.

On arriving at the river we found it fordable, with a capital shingly-bottom, so the men had

simply to raise the road to and from it, and pitch camp on the opposite bank. At another time the general would have experienced great difficulty in crossing this river in the face of an enemy ; fortunately, however, the cessation of rains and a long continued hot season favours a rapid movement of troops. The whole force crossed the Betwa the morning of the 17th March, St. Patrick's day, and encamped on the left (north) bank.

Thus far the major-general's progress from Mhow had been one series of rapid and successful movements against numerous bodies of the enemy. He had swept the whole of Central India thus far without a single check, in every instance driving the enemy from their strongholds further and further north, and spreading terror by his unrelenting punishment of mutineers, and restoring confidence by his masterly tactics in all the districts he had passed through. The successful issue of his career thus far was doubly insured by the fall of the Fort of Chandaree, captured by storm by his first brigade, commanded by Brigadier Stewart of the Bombay army, on the morning of St. Patrick's-day, about the same hour the general had crossed the Betwa. This good news arrived in our camp on the 18th. The rebels were reported to have escaped north towards Jhansi ; accordingly a body of the Hydera-

bad Contingent was sent out to intercept them. They came up with some few in the jungles west of the Chandaree road, and cut them up and captured some camels and tattoos.

The first brigade had had very hard work at Chandaree, and the enemy in that fort had evinced considerable determination to hold out to the last. The breach, which had been made through an almost solid rock, was stormed by the 86th, while a feint upon another side of the fort was made by the 25th N. I., and afterwards converted into a real attack. A good deal of resistance was made at the breach, and just as the storming party entered, headed by Capt. Keatinge, of the Bombay Artillery, the enemy exploded a mine. The casualties in the capture were between twenty and thirty. One officer, Royal Artillery, Lieut. Morsby, was shot dead, and Capt. Keatinge severely wounded. When the enemy saw the 25th coming in over the walls, they gave up resistance and hurled themselves over the parapets headlong into the deep pits and broken jungle outside. Every living soul who could not escape was bayoneted or cut up by the "*Royal County Downs*" and the 25th, for it was St. Patrick's day, and as I afterwards heard one of them say, "*Sure, they had had a thdrum, and the raal blood was up, and by St Patrick they couldn't*

spare one of the murtherers !” “ Why should they, when they remembered the little babbies and the poor ladies who were butchered in Cawnpore and Jhansi ?” Such were the sentiments of the 86th,—how could an enemy stand against old soldiers like these with such hearts? An Armenian rebel—a Christian too—who had led the Bhopal troops to mutiny, came into camp to-day and gave himself into the hands of Sir R. Hamilton, expecting pardon for all his villany.

This fellow instigated the rebels to plunder the treasury, and then went off with them. He was a good-looking, fair-complexioned young man, and was dressed in very gaudy apparel.

Sir Robert told him he would be hanged at sunset with other rebels. He then requested to know if he could leave his property and valuables to his friends. He had a good deal of gold about him and other things, which were forfeited, and about 5 P.M. he was hanged upon a tree in company with several other rebels. By this time the heat was becoming intense. Every day we found hotter than the preceding one, and the marches began to tell perceptibly upon the troops and cattle, while the whole face of nature appeared to put on the seared and barren garb of winter. The roads were dusty, the wells almost dry, the grass bleached and withered away, the dry yellow leaves rustled beneath the jungle

trees, and the branches above were naked and bleached, and the cattle crept in vain beneath these for shade. The winds began to blow as though they had just escaped from the hitherto-closed door of Pandemonium, and they swept over us, scorching up every pore of the body, and making the eyes feel as though they had^{*} been blistered. The thermometer stood in the shade of our tents at 110°, in the open at 130°! Nothing was cool, the chairs we sat on felt as though they had just been baked, the tables and tent poles were too hot to touch without necessity; cold water was a luxury, and the necessity of having one's beer cooled for the evening became one of the great and momentous objects of our existence. Each bottle was carefully enveloped in a wet cloth and assiduously punkahed by a servant until required, or when a breeze blew was hung up and constant evaporation encouraged. By this means we generally had a *cold* drink at night after the heat of the day.

The heat indeed was so great, that even the hair of the head became a 'burden, and many officers placed themselves in the hands of the barber, and came out cropped to the scalp—a sort of stubble field pate, deliciously cool, and favourable to the constant immersion we were now obliged to practise, and bad colds in the head which were soon to come. This gave a very comic air to the *personnel*,

but then brushing and combing were dispensed with—a great consideration on the march—while it became a very easy thing to water the pate and allow evaporation to go on steadily. Indeed, anything and everything was done to counteract the heat and its effects upon the body, but to very little purpose, for as the month sped so the thermometer gradually and alarmingly rose, and the hospitals began to fill with sick with abdominal complaints, affections of the liver, and derangements of the head.

When night came on our beds were always brought outside; this was the only cool time, but this we never enjoyed long, as we were roused at all hours for the march.

On the evening of the 19th, orders came round that the force would march at twelve o'clock that night for Chuchunpore—fifteen miles. When we arrived at our encamping ground the sun was getting very powerful; we were now only about eight miles from Jhansi. After a rest of about two hours the cavalry, horse artillery, and light field guns were ordered on to Jhansi for the purpose of investment and reconnaissance. Major Boileau and Lieut. Prendergast accompanied them; the whole under command of Brigadier Stewart, 14th Light Dragoons.

At 2 A.M. on the morning of the 21st the

column marched upon Jhansi, and arrived before that city about seven o'clock. The cavalry and artillery had bivouacked on the plain about a couple of miles from the city ; the enemy's cavalry retired to the town on the approach of our troops.

The troops piled arms on the right of the road about a mile and a half from the fort, and the general and his staff rode off for the purpose of reconnoitring the city and surrounding country. They did not return till past 6 P.M. ! Here we found we were short of water, firewood, and grass, and there was not a tree to give shade to the troops, who remained out in the open till the return of the general.

In our front between our force and the fort and town were the ruined buildings of the civilians, the officers' bungalows, the jail, the "Star fort," and the lines ; nearer the town wall were several large temples and topes of tamarind trees ; on our right, stretching to the north and east of the city, was a long belt of hills through which ran the Calpee and Oorcha roads ; to our left were other high hills and the Dettiah road, and due north of our force was the fortress on a high granite rock overlooking to the north the walled-in city.

The enemy had taken every possible precaution to remove all cover they thought likely to give shelter to our troops ; they had cut down trees and

broken down walls wherever these were thought by them likely to derange their plans; they had built up the old bastions of the fort and mounted large guns upon them, thrown up batteries in other commanding positions outside the fort, and mounted guns upon other works erected upon the town-wall, so as to command every possible approach, and admirably to enfilade each other. The town-wall had very strong bastions at intervals, and upon all these were guns, and the wall itself was very high and loopholed all round.

There were four strong looking bastions or towers on the south face of the fort—one had a white top looking towards the east, above these was a high square looking tower, and from this the standard of the Ranec of Jhansi waved. Along the east face of the fort were other towers overlooking the lines and city, and square buildings. Along this face we could see a good many of the enemy promenading.

Soon after our arrival we saw them busily engaged in constructing a three-gun battery on the wall a little to the east of the south face of the fort. They worked like bees, and quicker than I ever saw natives before. The battery was soon made and finished off in a proper engineering style. From this battery they would command any approach in this quarter; — still further east

along the wall, at a salient angle, was another battery, which they were now finishing off with chunam—this commanded the Saugor road ; from another bastion they had guns pointing along the Oorcha road ; to the west of the fort, in a garden, was another two-gun battery commanding the approach to the city-gate. Every tower of the fortress had its guns pointing east, south, and west. On the east side of the city was a large tank, numerous gardens, and temples ; on the west another large tank, gardens and temples ; on the north, gardens and maidan. The whole city was surrounded by the wall before mentioned, which was some twenty-five feet high, built of granite, loopholed and bastioned, and outside the wall to the north were some miserable lines of native houses crowded together.

This, then, was the city of Jhansi and its fortress, full of rebels, who were evidently determined to stand to the last by the Ranee in the struggle which was about to commence, and which it was now the onerous duty of Sir H. Rose to terminate.

They were evidently on the *qui vive*, for whenever an officer rode towards the different buildings they had destroyed, down came round shot from the fort and various batteries on the wall, bouncing along his path or whistling over his head in unpleasant proximity. They had the range of these

various buildings exactly, and it was dangerous to pass them carelessly:

The whole day passed away before the general and staff returned, and, as they came round the east side of the city, the enemy opened fire upon them from the guns on the *white* tower of the fort : their elevation was too high. •

The camp was then pitched, and about eight o'clock we sat down to dinner. The cavalry of the first brigade came into camp late that *night* from Chandaree.

Tantia Topee was reported to have left Jhansi the day before our arrival for the purpose of bringing down a large army from Calpee to the assistance of the troops of the Ranee. Whether or not this was his real intention was not known to us, and it was more generally believed that he had sought safer quarters than Jhansi under this bombastic excuse. There was a large rebel force at Calpee well supplied with all the munitions of war. This body of the enemy consisted chiefly of the famous Gwalior Contingent, infantry, cavalry, artillery, and siege trains, and mutinous regiments and bundeelahs, and altogether they formed a very formidable army likely to oppose our further progress if they did *not* attempt a relief of this city.

The horrid massacres at this city, instigated by the Ranee, had only been exceeded by the bloody

deeds at Cawnpore under the orders of Nana. The same course of events had marked the mutiny here as elsewhere—extermination of every soul, followed up by general spoliation and ruin, so as to obliterate every trace of British existence. The fire-brand had destroyed every house formerly inhabited by the officers of the commission and the military, and this followed by heavy rains, and months of total neglect, had left most of them little better than crumbling heaps of masonry.

Ten moons only had shone upon the gory pit in which the seventy-four mangled bodies of our fellow countrymen had been thrown, and the day of avenging had arrived; their spirits had risen up against their murderers, who were now hemmed in on every side, and the voices from the grave were soon to be answered by the deafening roar of cannon and the shouts of vengeance falling with the merciless sword. No maudlin clemency was to mark the fall of this city. The Jezebel of India was there—the young, energetic, proud, unbending, uncompromising Ranee, and upon her head rested the blood of the slain, and a punishment as awful awaited her.

This she well knew, and—not one iota undaunted—prepared a commensurate resistance, such an one, indeed, as would have shed honour and fame upon the name of any princess, whose hands

were unstained by the blood of the innocent and unoffending. In Jhansi there were said to be about 10,000 troops, and numbers of these were mutinous sepoys, and there was to be no quarter !

The country about Jhansi was as bare as a desert ; they had evidently done all they could to starve us, but we found friends in Scindia and the Ranee of Theree, and from them we obtained grass and fire-wood and vegetables for the troops. A few days prior to our arrival here the Ranee of Theree with a small force was said to have marched upon Jhansi with *one gun*, and proclaimed that she had come to fight for the Ranee of England ; they then fired a few shots at the fortress, and departed.

On the 22nd the city was thoroughly invested by our cavalry, and then commenced in good earnest

THE SIEGE.

About 9 P.M. on the evening of the 22nd, the Madras and Bombay Sappers moved silently from camp in company with two 18-pounders, howitzer and mortars, and a company of the 24th N. I. for the purpose of throwing up a battery near the Oorcha road on the east side of the town-wall. A little while before some horse artillery and dragoons had passed along the same way, skirting the hills, towards the north-east side of Jhansi.

All was dead silence, and we could hear the tom-tom and hum of voices of the enemy in the city, and occasionally see the glimmer of a torch or lantern passing to and fro in the fort. An occasional flash and rattle of a matchlock fired by a sentry from the wall towards us told us that they were on the watch. As the heavy guns rolled silently along towards the spot indicated by the chief engineer, Major Boileau, for the battery, a light flashed a few yards in our front, and as quickly disappeared. At first it was supposed to come from a body of the enemy, and the men halted and prepared to resist. Then several officers dashed their horses forward to find that the light had come from a body of the 3rd Europeans, who already held the position, and had an extended line along this face. The men worked hard all night without interruption from the enemy; a mortar battery was thrown up upon a little temple, and the heavy gun batteries upon a rocky eminence about three hundred yards from the wall. At dawn the enemy opened fire upon us from the fort guns, and from two or three batteries upon the wall. At first their shots passed over us, but by-and-bye they got our range exactly, and then their shots struck the sand-bags, and the temple almost every time. There was generally time to bob one's head beneath the bags when they fired

before the shot reached, but one of their guns, which we named "Whistling Dick," never gave us time for this precaution—for the puff of smoke was scarcely seen before the shot whizzed over your head, or came with a heavy *thud* against the battery.

All day the enemy were at work behind a screen throwing up a new battery on the wall to their left to enfilade ours.

On the evening of the 24th we had four batteries ready to open on this "*the right attack*," as the general had named it, and at daylight on the 25th the guns opened fire. The howitzer and mortars threw shell into the fort, and every part of the town, while the 24 and 18 pounders poured their contents against the works upon the wall. Several of the enemy's guns were silenced, and their battlements torn down.

After shelling and carcassing for a few hours a large fire broke out in the town beneath the east face of the fort, and by-and-bye other fires broke out in various spots, so that Jhansi began to look awfully panoramic.

All this time there was constant rattling of musketry firing from the enemy, and from our infantry who occupied various advanced positions behind boulders of granite, cottage walls and temples. We already had several wounded, and lost

a Bombay sapper, whose arm was torn off by a round shot.

The first brigade from Chanderee had now joined Sir H. Rose, and the general forthwith instituted a "*left attack*," from a position immediately south of the fort, and commanding several of the enemy's works upon the wall. With the first brigade there was a company of Royal Engineers under Capt. Fenwick, and a detachment of Bombay Sappers, horse artillery, and a field-battery, so that the general was now sufficiently strong in siege *materiel* to push on the offensive operations with vigour to a speedy conclusion. And much indeed was an end of these affairs to be desired, for the heat was daily increasing—in fact, it was terrible, because we had to endure it from sunrise to sunset without a morsel of shade to creep into, and this among great boulders of granite, themselves heated as with an internal fire from which they never cooled, and from which radiated an unbearable glare and dashes of heated air all day.

But there was the excitement of the enemy before us, and the work of destruction to go on with, so by the constant applications of cold water to the head upon a towel, and frequent large draughts of cold water from the *musuk*, we managed to endure for long consecutive hours what one would imagine would kill one in half the time.

On the morning of the 26th the Madras Sappers marched with a working party of the Royal Engineers to erect batteries on the "*left attack*," upon a rough rocky eminence about four hundred yards from the fort and the new three-gun battery we had seen the enemy throwing up on the wall the day we arrived. •

Below this hill was a small defile and a little nearer to the enemy other elevated ground. This was taken possession of under a very galling cross fire from the fort-guns and those on the bastions on the wall. The Royal Artillery, commanded by Capt. Ommaney, soon got a ten-inch howitzer into play, and the Hyderabad Artillery brought up other smaller guns.

This position was held, supported by the 86th Royal County Downs, the 25th Bombay N. I., and the 5th Infantry H. Contingent.

The greatest annoyance was experienced from the *white* tower guns, as from this bastion the enemy quite commanded our position.

The general was very particular in ordering the parapets of the fort bastions to be battered down.

A round shot from the fort killed a subadar, and a havildar of the H. C. Artillery as they were laying a gun. A sepoy of the same contingent quietly remarked, "*there's luck for somebody!*"

All day on the 26th the troops were hard at

work on this attack, while the guns on the "right attack" continued to pour upon the city.

Great numbers attempted an escape and were cut up by our cavalry, who also seized several cartloads of vegetables and fruits going to Jhansi. On the 28th there was continued heavy firing from the batteries on both attacks, and the enemy kept up a very smart fire upon our various works from their guns and from the whole line of the wall reaching from the fort to the right attack. We had silenced several of their guns, and as often as they were silenced so often did they re-open from them to our astonishment. In the midst of this din and roar, flash, and smoke, a great explosion occurred in the fort on the east face. This followed the constant shelling from the *right* attack. Every ten minutes in the twenty-four hours shell and shot fell in various parts of this doomed place, and fresh fires burst out among the different buildings—each fire greeted with loud hurrahs by the men in our batteries. The excitement frequently became intense, and the gunners continued their work in the scorching sun as though it were winter time. By the 29th the parapets of the fort bastions were torn down from the left attack, and the enemy's guns were accordingly rendered useless.

At the same time a breach was commenced in the town-wall near the fort. The cannonading went on

with great spirit, while the enemy continued a determined opposition from the "garden battery" on the west side, and from musketry and light guns along the wall.

During the mid-day heat scarcely a shot was fired by the enemy, but about 3.30 P.M. every evening they re-opened upon us with considerable spirit. Round shot of various sizes bounced over our heads, and matchlock balls whizzed like hail about us. From this hour till sunset was always a dangerous time, and our poor fellows were severely tried. The "garden battery" and guns on the fort gate pestered us a good deal. Near the former battery we could see scores of the enemy among the trees, sauntering about as though they were superintending a quiet every-day matter of business, although our shells occasionally dropped in the midst of them.

In one of these evening resuscitations their shot came among us with most disagreeable severity. In the defile between the two eminences on the left attack, scores of our infantry and dhooly-bearers took cover, but this place no longer afforded shelter from their fire. Our men got out of it quickly, but a round shot killed a poor dhooly-bearer, and, as he was being carried away, another shot smashed the dhooly in which he lay dead. The breaching and shelling were continued with unabated spirit on the

30th and 31st, and the enemy kept up a fearful fire upon us. Notwithstanding the damage done to their fort and works upon the wall, their vigilance and determination to resist abated not one iota ; on the contrary, their danger appeared to add to their courage.

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ARRIVAL OF TANTIA TOPEE AND GWALIOR CONTINGENT.

Soon after the major-general had invested the place he had taken the very wise precaution of establishing a telegraph-post upon one of the hills, east of Jhansi, which commanded an extensive view of the country, north and east. It is unnecessary to dilate upon the *sagesse* of such a step ; suffice it to say, that on the evening of the 31st, flags were flying from the telegraph-post indicating that "the enemy were coming in great force from the north." The general was in the battery on the right at the time, and when his aide-de-camp rode up to communicate the news, he rode off as quietly as though nothing of importance awaited his orders. Now, perhaps, a more anxious time never fell to the lot of a general. Here was the city of Jhansi crowded with a determined foe, and a fortress of great strength before him, which must be captured at all risks ; and around this city the general had of necessity dis-

posed of the majority of his force, from whence it would have been fatal to have withdrawn them, and now on his right flank, in the maidan between the hills and the river Betwa, was an army of 20,000 strong, almost within hail of their friends in Jhansi—the redoubtable Gwalior Contingent, who had recently destroyed the British camp at Cawnpore under General Wyndham, were now marching to the relief of Jhansi under Tantia Topee. This was the position of affairs on the evening of 31st March, and now the military skill of Sir H. Rose was about to be tested by no mean ordeal, but his resources were equal to the occasion, the more he was tried the greater brilliance he displayed.

Soon after the departure of the general the first brigade struck camp, and moved off along the Calpec road on the Jhansi side of the telegraph-hill. The sun was down, and it was now dark, and they marched on over against the right flank of the enemy unobserved, and remained there under arms all night. By-and-bye elephants came silently up to the battery and took off two 24-pounders, which were placed upon the Oorcha road near the hill, so as to check the enemy making for the city this way; the second brigade remained under arms in their camp, which was only separated from the rebel army by the Oorcha road; and the pickets along the whole British line were strengthened and ready for

action. The general did not weaken his investment of the city by the withdrawal of a single picket for the opposition of the relieving army, and the shelling and siege operations went on from both attacks with the same vigour and determination all that night.

The force at his disposal, for the battle about to be fought against such odds did not number over 1,200 men of all arms, and out of these he had not 500 British infantry !

But Sir Hugh Rose knew his men, and they trusted implicitly in his genius, his intrepidity, his unwearying vigilance, while individually they determined to die or conquer. By-and-bye the enemy made a bold reconnaissance of our position from the telegraph hill. That was enough (Sir Hugh had deceived them by striking the camp of the first brigade), they saw the few tents only of the second brigade, and what was such a force against theirs ? They accordingly marched in masses and took up a position close in front of our camp, lighted great fires, killed their cattle, and ate ! The enemy in the fort could see all this, and they shouted, and fired a salute, while the tom-toming and bugling went on at a Bedlam pace all night, and the match-lock-men along the wall wasted a proportionate amount of ammunition. The camp-fires of both forces burnt all night, and our sentries were often

taunted by the enemy's, who told them that they would all be sent to *Jahannam* (hell) on the morrow. "What was the handful before them to the Paishwa's thousands ! wah !".

Night wore on apace, and our troops longed for the hour that was to decide the fate of so many !

" From camp to camp, through the foul womb of night
The hum of either army stilly sounds,
That the fixed sentinels almost receive
The secret whispers of each other's watch :
Fire answers fire ; and through their paly flames
Each battle sees the other's umbered face :
Steed threatens steed, in high and boastful neighs,
Piercing the night's dull ear."

BATTLE OF THE BETWA.

It was an anxious time for most of us, and glad were we when early dawn came on. Between 4 and 5 A.M. our pickets retired upon the main body, and then commenced the terrific roaring of our heavy guns and field artillery, answered by those of the enemy. Volleys of musketry rattled from both sides for some time, then the first line of our infantry were ordered to lie down while the horse artillery poured awful destruction upon the left flank of the enemy's infantry. No sooner was a tendency to waver seen in their ranks than the general and Captain Prettyjohn, each at the head of a body of cavalry, charged their right and left

wing, and broke their dense masses into pieces, and in a moment turned their position ; then our little line of infantry dashed forward, and put them to flight, dealing death on every hand, while the cavalry and all mounted officers charged through and through them, fighting like Trojans !

The dense blue clouds of smoke had scarcely cleared away when we found, still pursuing and slaying the enemy in masses, that they had fallen back upon their second line of infantry, artillery, and cavalry, commanded in person by Tantia Topec, and which stood drawn up upon jungly-rising ground about two miles from their first line. They opened their guns upon our rapidly-advancing troops to no purpose, for onward they dashed, already flushed with victory. The first brigade had by this time moved round the hill into the maidan on the enemy's right flank, had encountered a large body of them who were moving off towards Jhansi while the battle was raging in our front, and had swept them before them like chaff. They fled back upon their reserve and into the jungle to the north, while the 86th, 25th Bombay N. I., and the cavalry, pursued so hotly that they had no time to re-form, and gun after gun fell into our hands, while tens, twenties, and fifties died in nullahs, or among bushes, or around their guns. Their front line being broken and destroyed, their right flank turned, and

our forces now moving upon the reserve body from two points, induced Tantia Topee to retreat as fast as he could upon the river Betwa, their artillery constantly pouring shot into our advancing columns. It *now* became a cavalry and horse artillery fight, and while he crossed the Betwa he used his remaining guns well. Nothing, however, could stop our troops until they had taken every gun, and swept the enemy away like a whirlwind. They were too exhausted to continue the pursuit much farther ; by sunset this victorious little band returned over the conquered field, where upwards of 20,000 of the proud Gwalior Contingent with Tantia Topee at their head, had drawn up in battle array at sunrise, confident of victory and relief to the doomed city : now they were no more ! No sooner did the roaring of the cannon announce the commencement of the battle, than the enemy in the fort and town opened fire upon our batteries like demons. They mounted the bastions and the wall, and shouted and yelled, and poured down volleys of musketry until it was thought they intended to make a sortie, while every tower of the fort was enveloped in flame and smoke.

But the fort commanded a view of the maidan whereon their friends were proving their faith, and the men in our batteries were not to be deterred from their important work by shouts, yells, and

wild waste of powder and shot: the breaching went on, perhaps, with more vigour than heretofore, and so the enemy at length gave over their firing and the tom-toms ceased, and the city din was hushed to a whisper.

This was a bloody day, for not a man of the enemy asked for quarter or received it. Our cavalry suffered the most, as they had dashed through and through their ranks, a mere handful, combating as many hundreds of well-armed and disciplined sepoys. But the danger of the field lay not in the forward charge alone, for long after the enemy had given way, and our force had advanced some miles over the plain, our infantry came upon large bodies of them secreted in the various nullahs and behind rocks, and in these instances a combat as deadly followed. I saw one serjeant of the horse artillery hewn in pieces in one of these nullahs, while numbers of our troops were close at hand. He had cut down two of the enemy, and was then attacked by others from behind; he fell in the ditch, and was there sadly cut up, while numbers of the enemy were being slain beside him. The man who had cut him down then ran among us, and figured away like a mad dog, first stepping one way, then another, and another—brandishing his bloody tulwar—until he fell, shot by a 3rd European. Escape was out of the question for hundreds of them, and they hid

behind stones and bushes to have one dead shot before they died ; and herein lay great danger. By the time the battle was over nearly a thousand of the enemy lay dead on the field. We captured all the guns they had brought from Calpee, and among these was an 18-pounder, drawn by elephants, like our own ; two were brass 9-pounders, thirteen were native pieces of various sizes, also a brass mortar mounted on a gun-carriage ; besides these a good many bullocks and a large amount of shell, shrapnel, and carcase, and heaps of kit. The 1st of April had passed away gloriously with the well-fought " Battle of the Betwa ;" few instances in the annals of Indian history can be brought forward to eclipse the military genius of the general who planned and carried out so perfectly the defeat of such a foe, or the valour of the handful of the brave troops who fought under him that day. Weary, but *morally* stronger than ever, they returned to camp to rest and recruit awhile, yet to pour their unexhausted wrath in a few hours more upon the city that was now more than ever in our hands.

On the 2nd April orders were issued for the storming of the city on the morning of the 3rd. Scaling ladders were prepared for the storming party on the right attack ; on the left attack a breach had been made in the wall sufficiently large. A feint was to be made on the west face by a body

under Major Gall, 14th Dragoons, and when the sound of his guns was heard by the storming party, they were to debouch from cover, escalate the wall at various points, and carry the breach at the same time.

The major-general came down in the afternoon to one of the batteries on the *right* attack to look to the ladders which lay below under the cover of the hill. He then went to the left attack, and inspected, as far as possible, the condition of the breach. Up to this time the siege had been carried on with such unabated vigour that the whole of the towers on the south face of the fort had been rendered useless, and the works upon the walls quite battered down. The kindness of the major-general to his men was most marked. He constantly visited the sick and cheered them up, and never failed to notice any good conduct. He frequently rewarded men on the spot, and often distributed money from his own purse among them when they pleased him by accuracy of fire or other gallant acts. He expected much of them, but never failed to show them that he, too, could bear the hard and harassing duties of the field. Every comfort for the sick and wounded was at hand, and the contingencies of the coming "storm" were provided for in every possible way. Great numbers now attempted escape from the northern gate of the city, but were all cut

up by our line of cavalry pickets or fell by the rifle.

Unfortunately the nights were brilliantly moonlight, so that we should have no opportunity of stealing to the walls unobserved; however, the hour was nigh at hand, one more dinner together, one more "good night," a few short hours' sleep, and then to the fearful work of the "storm."

THE STORM.

About 3 A.M. on the morning of the 3rd we marched off in dead silence from our tents to the two attacks from whence we were to debouch in two strong storming parties at the moment of the given signal sounding from the western side. The right attack was to be by escalade, the left by storming the breach. On the right attack were the Madras and Bombay Sappers, the 3rd Europeans, and Hyderabad Infantry; on the left attack the Royal Engineers, the 86th and 25th Bombay N.I.

The moon was very bright; too light, indeed, for the coming work. We waited some time in terrible suspense for the signal, as morning was fast approaching. At length the word to advance was given in a voice a little above a whisper, the lad-

ders were hoisted upon the shoulders of the sappers, preceded by the 3rd Europeans and Hyderabad Infantry as a covering party, and away we marched from our cover in three bodies—swords and bayonets glistening in the pale light.

No sooner did we turn into the road leading towards the gate than the enemy's bugles sounded, and a fire of indescribable fierceness opened upon us from the whole line of the wall, and from the towers of the fort overlooking this site. For a time it appeared like a sheet of fire, out of which burst a storm of bullets, round-shot, and rockets, destined for our annihilation. We had upwards of two hundred yards to march through this fiendish fire, and we did it, and the sappers planted the ladders against the wall in three places for the stormers to ascend, but the fire of the enemy waxed stronger, and amid the chaos of sounds of volleys of musketry and roaring of cannon, and hissing and bursting of rockets, stink-pots, infernal machines, huge stones, blocks of wood, and trees,—all hurled upon their devoted heads,—the men wavered for a moment, and sheltered themselves behind stones. But the ladders were there, and there the sappers, animated by the heroism of their officers, keeping firm hold until a wound or death struck them down beneath the walls. It seemed as though Pluto and the furies had been loosed upon us; and inside

bugles were sounding, and tom-toms beating madly, while the cannon and the musket were booming and rattling, and carrying death among us fast. At this instant on our right three of the ladders broke under the weight of men, and a bugle sounded on our right also for the Europeans to retire!! A brief pause, and again the stormers rushed to the ladders, led on by the engineer officers. In a few moments more Lieut. Dick, Bombay Engineers, was at the top, fighting bravely, and calling on the 3rd Europeans to follow him; Lieut. Meiklejohn, Bombay Engineers, had gained the summit of another ladder, and boldly leaped over the wall into the midst of the enemy; Lieut. Bonus, B. E., was upon another. In a few seconds more, Lieut. Dick fell from the wall, bayoneted, and shot dead; Lieut. Bonus was hurled down, struck by a log of wood or stone in the face, and Lieut. Fox, Madras Sappers, was shot through the neck; but the British soldiery pushed on, and in streams from some eight ladders at length gained a footing upon the ramparts, dealing death among the enemy, who still contested every point of the attack in overwhelming numbers.

Now we heard the victorious shouts of the 86th and 25th, who had carried the breach, and as they rushed along the ramparts, driving the enemy before them from every spot, the two streams of the

stormers met, and the air resounded with yells and huzzas !

“The rampart is won and the spoil begun,
And all but the after carnage done.”

The wounded and dead who fell beneath the walls were very numerous, and the onerous and dangerous task of looking after these men under such a murderous fire for so long a time, too, was no enviable duty. Several times did I cross the line of fire to look after the wounded, and while bullets and rockets were bouncing all around I went to the front to attend Lieut. Fox, and under that fire staunched his wound, which was apparently bleeding him to death, and then conducted him back to the shelter temporarily taken up for the hospital.

A doctor's duty with the storming party is a dangerous one. Dr. Stack, of the 86th, was shot through the heart on the left attack, and Dr. Miller severely wounded on the right attack.

As soon as the wounded were attended to and sent to the field hospital, I hastened among the stormers up a ladder to render aid to those inside, for the shouting and rattling of musketry were going on as hard as ever. Soon after I gained the bastion over the Oorcha gate the general and staff came along the rampart, accompanied by Col. Turnbull, commandant of artillery. Street fight-

ing was going on in every quarter from the wall to the palace. Heaps of dead lay all along the rampart and in the streets below, and screams and groans were heard in every house. By this time the town near the wall and along the main street was pretty well cleared of the enemy, and the general with some sappers then went off to the palace, which by this time was in the hands of our soldiery. In a few moments afterwards, numbers of wounded and burnt men were brought along the street—the enemy had exploded some powder in the palace.

While these were being looked after as well as circumstances would admit of, Col. Turnbull was brought back upon a charpoy—shot through the abdomen from a window in the palace. The blood welled out from his wound, and I knew he would die. Then there were many others along the ramparts lying wounded, and near these the body of poor Lieut. Meiklejohn cut to pieces, and robbed of everything, even to his socks! But death was flying from house to house with mercurial speed; not a man was spared, and the streets began to run with blood. Ere long the houses on both sides of the street leading to the palace were on fire. The heat from the sun and these flames was fearful; and as we passed from beneath the cover of these burning buildings to get into the palace yard, we had

to make a rush, for the gateway was immediately commanded by the fort, into which the enemy had fled, and from which they kept up a constant heavy fire upon this spot. When I got into the palace I found it crowded with our soldiery, some lying down worn out with the heat and hard work, some sauntering about with two and three pagrees upon their heads and others round their waists, some lying down groaning from their wounds or the explosion, and others busily engaged extinguishing the flames in the rooms where the explosion had taken place. The whole place was a scene of quick ruin and confusion ; windows, doors, boxes, and furniture went to wreck like lightning. The jewels had been found, and these, too, would soon have disappeared had they not been secured. The officers and men needed rest during the mid-day heat, for there was yet enough to be done ere Jhansi was captured. We had been some two hours in the palace when it was discovered that a large body of the enemy had shut themselves up in the stables. The 86th and 3rd Europeans rushed in upon them and slew every man—upwards of fifty, but not before they had cut down some dozen Europeans. The wounded men came staggering out with the most terrible sword-cuts I ever saw in my life. Here was found the British flag, and when it was brought out into the yard, how the Royal County Downs yelled and

cheered ! It was instantly taken to the top of the palace by the adjutant of the 86th and put up, under a heavy fire from the fort. The street fighting went on all this time in a terrible way. Those who could not escape threw their women and babes down wells, and then jumped down themselves ; they were dragged out, the women and children taken care of, and the men then despatched. Every house, almost, had its inmates of rebels, who fought to the death like tigers, so the bayoneting went on till after sunset.

About 4.30 P.M. a message came to the general that the enemy were again coming down upon our camp. He moved away from the palace with some men of the 86th.

About 400 of the enemy had escaped from the west face of the town, and gained a hill, where they were surrounded by our cavalry. Then the horse artillery and a body of the 24th N. I. went out to them ; the artillery were not of much use on account of the stones ; then the 24th went in at them and slew them all save about twenty, who gained an eminence difficult of approach. Lieut. Parke, of the 24th, was shot dead with many others, and about twenty of that regiment were brought into camp wounded. Those who retreated to the top of the hill then blew themselves up ! To the west side of the palace about 1,500 men collected in a place

called the new Pettah, and here they determined to stand or die. After some hard fighting a good many endeavoured to escape, but the cavalry cut up some 300, and the rest then moved beneath the fort in which the Ranee and, as reported, about 500 followers, had taken shelter.

A report was circulated that the Ranee intended committing suttee if she could not escape from the fort.

All the day on the 4th there was a good deal of street fighting going on, and we lost great numbers of men in one way or another. We took possession of their gun-carriage factory and foundry, and exploded two magazines and captured a good many elephants and horses.

On the morning of the 5th, Lieut. Baigrie, 3rd Europeans, went up to the fort gate and found it open; he then went on from gate to gate, peeping and seeing no one, and at length found himself in possession of the fort of Jhausi.

The Ranee and her followers had fled in the night from the gate near the garden-battery, and were off long before we knew of it. Our cavalry went in pursuit, and caught up some 200, and slew them to a man. Street fighting continued on and off all the day.

On the 6th, the last desperate body, which had collected in the Lane-Bagh was disposed of, after

hard fighting and considerable loss on our side. Lieut. Sinclair, Hyderabad Infantry, was shot dead ; Lieut. Simpson, Bengal Army, shot through the throat ; and many rank and file killed and wounded.

After four days' hard fighting, Jhansi,—city and fort,—was in our hands, and a hard gained prize it was ; for, considering all difficulties the general had to combat,—the heat, the want of provisions, a large fortress and city crowded with the enemy, an army of their best troops beaten on 1st April in the face of the enemy,—their friends in Jhansi,—it is not to be wondered at if our list of killed and wounded numbered upwards of 300 !

In Jhansi we burnt and buried upwards of a thousand bodies, and if we take into account the constant fighting carried on since the investment, and the battle of the Betwa, I fancy I am not far wrong when I say I believe we must have slain nearly 3,000 *of the enemy*.

Such was the retribution meted out to this Jezebel Ranee and her people for the heinous crimes done by them in Jhansi.

They had luxuriated for nine long months in our travail ; they had defied our authority ; they had fattened on our spoil ; they had twisted the moustache in contempt of our rule ; they had laughed at our power, and basked in the sun of their long

unopposed tyranny ; they had stepped from peace and security into the vortex of rebellion, and dyed their hands in the blood of innocents ; but the avenging hand was stretched out, and their puffed up thousands were swept to the grave ! Jhansi will never be forgotten. Next to Cawnpore the massacre was the largest,—certainly as awful, for only five escaped to tell the tales of woe,—Mr. Ryves, Mr. Tyrwhitt, and Mrs. Scott, an East Indian, with her two children. The latter had been hidden by a gardener, and were rescued by us when the city was stormed.

The fall of Jhansi was more than successful, for not only did the general capture their stronghold, but he so completely hemmed them in that escape to the mass was next to impossible. Death stared them in the face on every side ; no quarter was awarded them as a word of warning to others. I exaggerate not when I say I saw the streets stained with blood, but I also know that the rough and bearded soldier behaved most kindly to the women and children. It was 'an awful sight to see these poor creatures follow out of their houses some rebel husband, brother, or son, who was at once shot, and then to see them huddled together, pale and trembling, beneath the walls, helpless and alone in the world ! But the soldier was as compassionate to these poor wretches as he was unrelenting to

all male inhabitants found in arms. Many I saw dividing the contents of their havresacs among these half-starved women and children, and every woman was treated with kindness and respect. How different to the conduct of the brutes who had murdered our women and children in cold blood, beside perpetrating other iniquities, a few months previously !

The enemy had occupied the palace to the last, never dreaming that we should so soon force them from it. In the first moments of excitement our troops smashed and destroyed everything before them. Doors inlaid with plate-glass, mirrors, chandeliers, chairs, and other native furniture, went to a thousand pieces in a moment ; every room was ransacked and covered with heaps of things broken and torn to atoms ; carpets, mats, velvet and satin beds, bedsteads with silver feet, velvet cushioned chairs, a brazen throne of excellent old workmanship, golden and silver handled tulwars, spears, silver mounted sticks, silver bird-cages, ivory footstools, lamp shades, marble slabs, dozens of pagrees and shawls, silver candlesticks, crockery ware, and a thousand other things such as a luxurious woman would have, lay here and there in chaotic confusion in every part of the building.

The soldiery went to and fro tramping over and

through these things, and kicking them about as they would any heap of rubbish, until order was somewhat restored.

A good many of the jewels had found their way into their pockets, but, considering the temptation, one must say that they were more than obedient to the order to keep their hands from picking and stealing under the trying and exciting circumstances of the day.

In most of the rooms we found some relic or other of the unfortunate officers who perished here in the mutiny. In one room I found the portmanteau of Mr. P. S. York, containing sundry things, and, among others, a copy of Horace, which the general allowed me to retain. Copies of Longfellow and Byron, and other books, and clothing and plate, were found in other places; these things showed that the Ranee had not only participated in their murder, but had positively shared in the plunder of their property. The palace, as a building, was the most beautiful and richly furnished I have seen in India; exquisite taste and luxury combined to make it a fitting abode for a worthier princess, although it was surrounded by filthy hovels and in the centre of the city.

Other large houses we found stocked with loot from the dwellings of Europeans who perished in

the massacre. Why they did not destroy these things was a mystery to us, for wherever they were found, death paid for their presence. The palace was turned into an hospital for the European wounded and sick. The heat in tents was by this time fearful; I had seen the thermometer in the shade of a tent as high as 120° in the open, and in the batteries it was almost insufferable. Men fell sick from the heat alone, while the wounds received in action soon mortified, and fatally prostrated the sufferers.

In the fort about *forty* guns were found and a large amount of ammunition. Major Robertson of the 25th was made commandant for the time being.

The prize agents were busily engaged daily in taking stock of the money, jewels, and other valuables found in the palace and town, and sales were going on daily in camp for the disposal of prize goods and the property that once belonged to officers who had died in action.

Fabulous sums were paid for most trivial articles. Boots had become very valuable indeed, and all kinds of "ol clo" were bought at amazing prices. Medical committees sat daily upon such officers as were wounded and no longer able to carry on their duties; and the two chaplains of the force, the Rev. Mr. Schwabbe and the Rev. Father Strickland, had

their hands full in consoling the wounded, sick, and dying, and in burying the dead.

We were now encamped for several days upon the old cantonment ground, the general awaiting the arrival of a large supply of commissariat stores, and a reinforcement of troops, before he made another move after the enemy.

After the storm the bodies of those officers who had fallen were consigned to their mother earth. They died as soldiers should die,—in the hour of victory, and for their country's sake.

Such are the chances of war! While we laugh in the face of peril, death hovers above us, and snatches us away to that "bourne from whence no traveller returns," and where din and strife are no more.

During this time the sick and wounded were sent into the field hospitals in the city, for the heat was too much even for strong men to bear in tents, and every day now the list of sick was swelling. A field hospital after an action, in a tropical climate, established as this was, is at the best but a sorry apology. At this season it may be well imagined how the poor wounded and sick suffered from the heat, the atmosphere tainted by noxious effluvia, the swarms of flies, mosquitoes, and other vermin which ceased not to pester them by night or by day. Anxiety, sharpened by pain, sat on

many a fine fellow's pallid face ; the sunken eye and fallen cheeks of others showed how rapidly vigour and life *may* wane away in such a country ; despair spoke in the trembling lip and appealing eye that had vainly searched for hope.

To see many of these men at prayer was, indeed, a gratifying spectacle. Sorely stricken, yet there were the God-fearing and trusting sons of Britain praying to their all-kind Preserver in the palace of the heathen ! And what prayers, we may be sure, these men mutely offered !

On the 14th the Christian burial service was read over the pit near the Jokun-Bagh, into which the enemy had thrown the European bodies after they had massacred them in a nullah close by. Horrid accounts were given by one or two natives of the prior treatment and butchery of the Europeans here ; these have been contradicted since, but I am more inclined to believe the story of their villanies than one since concocted to show that they only fell upon them with swords and slew them ; the latter suits the present times and our hopes, but I fear the old men's tales were too true. The father of the Ranee, and the Jhansi *bakhshi* (paymaster), were captured by a zemindar some twelve miles to the west, and brought into camp on the 18th ; the Ranee's father had been wounded in the leg in Jhansi. They were in a

miserable condition, and on the evening of the next day they were both hanged on a tree near to the nullah where the murders had taken place. The campaign was beginning to tell fast and heavily upon our men and officers. The mess of the sappers and miners, which numbered eight before the battle of the Betwa and the storming of Jhansi, was now reduced to two ! Lieut. Prendergast, who was always foremost in the fray, was most severely wounded in the cavalry charge in the battle-field on the 1st April ; Lieut. Fox, who had slain eight men in the same battle, was dangerously wounded in the storm by a musket ball which lodged in his neck ; Lieuts. Meiklejohn and Dick were both slain ; Lieut. Bonus wounded, and Captain Brown too sick to continue on duty any longer ; Lieut. Goodfellow, who had assisted in carrying a ladder on the right attack, and afterwards a powder-bag to blow open the gate in the face of the fearful resistance from the enemy, escaped unhurt, as did also Lieut. Gordon.

Poor Lieut. Dick had evidently thought his time was come, for in his desk we found a will, written in pencil, apparently the night before the storming of Jhansi, in which he left his rifles to Lieut. Strutt, forty rupees to a gunner who had behaved kindly in attending to Lieut. Christie after he was wounded at Dhar, a lock of hair for his mother, and his pro-

perty to his brother, an officer in the Royal Navy. He was disheartened, and said he would do something to show he did not merit his disgrace, and he fell, bravely leading on the Europeans in the "storm."

By-and-bye the arrangements for garrisoning Jhansi had been made, and the general, although considerably crippled, was preparing for a move towards Calpee. The garrison under command of Col. Liddell, 3rd Europeans, was to consist of,—

Head-quarter wing of 3rd Europeans.

4 companies 24th Regt. Bombay N. I.

3rd Light Cavalry,—left wing.

Hyderabad Cavalry, 100.

$\frac{1}{2}$ company Bombay Sappers.

3 guns, Bhopal Contingent.

About midnight on the 22nd, Major Gall, 14th Light Dragoons, marched out with a small force to a place called Mhow, to reconnoitre the position of the enemy. The first brigade started for Calpee at midnight of the 25th,—the second brigade to follow

CHAP. VI.

March to Calpee.—Poonch.—Capture of fort by Major Gall.—Koonch.—The battle of Koonch.—Defeat of rebels.—Dust storm.—Destruction of fort of Hurdooi.—Orai.—Effects of the sun upon the troops.—Camp, Calpee.—The Ravines.—Battle of Golowlee.—Capture of Calpee.—Calpee, town and fort.—General Rose's "order."—Rebels capture Gwalior.—Scindiah flies.—Sir Hugh Rose defeats the rebels, and reinstates the Maharajah Scindiah.—Remarks.—Journey from Calpee to Cawnpore and Calcutta.—Mutilation.—Allahabad.—Dāk to Calcutta.

ON the 29th, after several midnight marches, we moved on Saurie, where we found a powder manufactory of the enemy, and made some prisoners.

The country through which we marched was one continuous flat, the wells were almost dry, and the water filthy. The heat became more and more oppressive, and the cattle began to emaciate and die. Our speedy arrival at Calpee became a paramount necessity, for it was quite evident that unless the troops could ere long lie quartered beneath buildings and be supplied with plenty of good water, the sun would prove a fiercer and deadlier enemy than the rebels; and the state of the country was such that

the general was precluded concentrating his troops. When we arrived at Poontch we heard that the enemy had occupied strong positions all along our front, and that they had harassed Major Gall's party a good deal.

On Sunday 2nd May a strong party of the 25th and 3rd Europeans, under Major Gall, went out a few miles from camp at Poontch to a fort wherein some 500 rebels had collected; the place was surrounded, the gate was blown open, and, after considerable resistance, every man was slain. This was a very complete affair.

About fourteen miles in our front was Koonch, and here the rebels had collected in great force determined to give us battle. The Ranee of Jhansi, the Rajah of Baunpore, the Nawab of Banda, the Rao Sahib, Tantia Topce, and other great folk, were there! To effect a stand at this place was one of their last hopes; if they were driven from Koonch, death in the field or the waters of the Jumna would be their portion. They knew full well how the climate was weakening Sir H. Rose's forces, and how difficult a thing it would be for him to unite his two brigades, on account of paucity of water and fodder for the cattle. It was no uncommon thing now to see our horses picking up the dried sticks and leaves blown over the barren wastes upon which we encamped, or to find the

wells drawn dry in less than an hour afterwards. The nearer we approached the famous valley of the Jumna, the more critical our position became, and yet the troops bore all their sufferings, induced by deprivation of sleep, intense heat, and the harassing works of the campaign, with a cheerfulness and spirit beyond all expectation.

We were joined by the 2nd brigade, strengthened by the 71st Highlanders, on the 5th May; the 1st brigade then moved off again, and encamped about ten miles nearer Koonch. The next march would bring us before the enemy. The 2nd brigade took a route to the south of Koonch, and the Hyderabad Contingent one more easterly, while the general with the 1st brigade was moving to the west of that place.

The whole district was studded with forts, every village we passed by had its fort, and in these little strongholds the enemy had posted themselves for months past; they had, however, deserted them on the approach of our forces, doubtless with the intention of re-occupying them after they had given us a beating, as we found most of their gates locked.

THE BATTLE OF KOONCH.

Another day of extreme heat, paucity of water, a few hours of unrefreshing dose, (sound sleep was

impossible from howling dogs, jackals, and beasts of burden chewing their cud and jingling bells with every move of the head ;) and then another march and a battle ! We marched most of the night, and how long the hours seem in night marches ! The infantry were fatigued before they started, but they began to try hard to bear up against it. In the first halt they sit down and are soon asleep, then they awake, nod off again, and awake again several times. The bugle sounds, and they are up and off again, but before a second halt is sounded they begin to fall out, and must be carried in dhoolies. An occasional joke passes off among the older campaigners, and the hopes of meeting the foe keep up their flagging spirits.

The sun gets up, and then the heat and clouds of white dust well nigh overpower them, and the men begin to cry out, almost hysterically, for water. Water ! but the bag is empty ! and they look round imploringly and keep on a little longer. By-and-bye a village and a large tope of trees is seen, and then the bheesties rush off for water, and the men expect a halt. Long continued excitement, like this, soon begins to tell upon the best of them ; a shadowing of delirium begins to show itself ; there is a nervous restlessness, and a wild glare from the dry red eye, and awful vengeance is vowed against the foe ! Men begin to talk of home, and cool shady places,

and brooks, as the hot air begins to blow over them, parching up every drop of moisture in the body ; and dogs rush past with great raw wounds in their backs, like sabre cuts, caused by the sun, howling for water and shade ; the patient camel cries and grunts, and the intelligent elephant tries to rest the raw soles of his feet, and big tears trickle from his eyes as the advance continues ; at length the head of the column has halted, there is a village, and the men are blessed with ample shade and water for a time !

Tea is soon made, and the jaded troops begin to revive. A hurried breakfast is ordered by the kind-hearted general, and the troops told to rest themselves, while he dashes off across the burning plain, now trembling in dense mirage, to communicate with his 2nd brigade.

Koonch is in our front, about two miles off, and looks like a garden suspended in the sky, and the plain around like a soft rippling lake beneath it. An hour passes away, and the general returns ; bugles sound ! and the troops are again on foot. The artillery move off, supported by cavalry and infantry through the mirage, and the rest of the column follows. There is no more shade yet, and before the action commences the general makes sure that no enemy are in the villages on our left. By and-bye we move opposite Koonch, and there

are the enemy's red and blue-coated cavalry and infantry drawn up under trees below the town ; then they open a battery upon our centre, which is speedily answered from our guns by shot and shell ; then their cavalry waver, and disappear among the trees, and our column advances. Now distant sounds of musketry and artillery firing come from the Calpee side and our right ; and news arrives by-and-bye that the enemy are escaping towards Calpee.

It was past mid-day when the 86th and 25th, and guns, and sappers and cavalry, advanced upon the place.

In less than an hour after the advance of the 1st brigade Koonch is in our hands, but the majority of the rebels are gone.

Then the dragoons and irregular cavalry and horse artillery pursue them, and cut up a considerable number of their infantry.

So ends the opposition against the advance of our forces upon Calpee ! It was said much more might have been effected against the enemy, had the 2nd brigade been permitted to advance by their brigadier. As it was that brigade had the honour of standing fast in the position they had taken up, "like greyhounds in the slip straining for the start," until the enemy were off, while the poor men of the 71st and 3rd Europeans dropped down in numbers

upon the field, *struck by the sun*, without being in a position to punish the enemy before them. Lieut. Macquoid, with his Hyderabad Infantry, charged a large body of the enemy's infantry, and routed them from an enclosure they held in the face of that brigade, but was not supported, and had to retire. The cavalry, however, made a good account of the enemy in their pursuit, and among the dead was a woman dressed in male attire who was flying astride upon horseback when she was slain. The sun had been a deadly enemy to us this day, for there was no shade. While the action was going on, dhooly after dhooly was brought into the field hospital with officers and men suffering from sun-stroke, some dead, others prostrated, laughing and sobbing in weak delirium. The general himself had fallen three times, but he continued to struggle against it until the victory was won ; and as the sun was setting the men moved off towards the encamping ground on the Calpee side of Koonch.

From the midnight before the whole force had been under arms, marching and fighting under a terrible Indian sun, and soldiers and followers, horses, elephants, and bullocks, appeared worn out, and heavily sauntered over the heated ground to their resting places ; but the sun went down so quickly that long before the encamping ground could be gained it was dark, and everybody and everything

went wrong. We could see camp fires springing up in various directions, but no one knew where to find his place ; elephants and siege-guns were moving about backwards and forwards over nullahs, utterly lost ; baggage carts were getting overturned here, there, and everywhere ; every one was crying out for his friend ; and soldiers parched with thirst, hungry, faint, and footsore, were seeking their quarters almost dispirited. Camp followers had squatted down in groups anywhere, and began to make fires and cook, determined to wait till morning revealed their proper whereabouts.

I had wandered about till midnight, without finding my quarters, and then, completely worn-out, I made my bed upon the plain for the night, not to enjoy much sleep, however, for cattle and followers continued to pass and repass me until the bugles sounded in the morning.

We captured from the rebels at Koonch eight guns, a good deal of ammunition, and a large quantity of grain ; but the cavalry, who had fled early in the day, had taken away most of their artillery. The number of the enemy who opposed us here was said to be nearly 20,000, out of which there were about 7,000 cavalry !

Their resistance in this instance showed much less determination than they had displayed previously. It seemed evident that the battle of the Betwa and

the capture of Jhansi had had their desired effects upon both *men* and leaders.

Again we were on the march, and on the 9th encamped at Hurdooi, where there was another little strong fort. We found a good deal of grain, and a couple of guns in it, and the sappers commenced to demolish it.

The mines not being ready for explosion, the general and column moved off and left us, a solitary company of sappers, all alone in our glory in the plain before this fort.

A most extraordinary dust storm caught us up while we were encamped here. At first a general darkness came over the camp accompanied by a howling hot wind from the west. Then the whole sky to the westward appeared as though huge flames and massive pillars of black smoke were ascending from the still darker horizon, and continued to roll and tumble about in most turbulent disorder. A deep growling of distant thunder reached us, and then hot blasts of suffocating wind, and the tent tops began to shake, while this war of scorching elements went on veering to the south, south-east, and east, and alternately to the north ; then tiny whirlwinds passed through the camp, big drops of rain fell, the dark lurid clouds of dust were dissipated, and the sirocco had passed by us, curling up writing paper, and leaves of books, and drying up

one's skin like parchment ! The highly electric state of the atmosphere in these regions was marked by one or two curious phenomena.

When the hair of the head was combed, a crackling sound followed the course of the comb, and hundreds of tiny sparks were visible in the dark ; the tails of our horses stood out in most grotesque positions, like an angry cat's ; and otherwise unaccountable furors seized the cattle, and they broke loose from their pickets, and caused constant uproars in different parts of the camp.

Beer was becoming now a most precious possession. No one can imagine the value of a bottle of beer in such a climate save those who have felt what it was to be without one ; but one may form a pretty just estimate when I state that as much as eighteen, twenty, and twenty-six rupees (52s.) were given, and gladly too, for a single dozen of this *sine quâ non* British beverage !

Brandy, arrack, and wines of all kinds are comparatively worthless adjuncts to a campaign in India, particularly if it be in a hot season ; there is nothing quenches the burning thirst and revives the flagging spirits so satisfactorily as a bottle of *cold beer*, which becomes the very nectar of existence in camp.

The 2nd brigade remained a day behind the 1st. Brigadier Stewart, 14th Dragoons, had reported

sick after the action at Koonch, and the command devolved upon Lieut.-Col. Campbell of the 71st Highlanders.

Having destroyed the fort of Hurdooi, we started on the 11th, about sunrise, to join the major-general's force. On our arrival at the town of Orai we found, to our surprise, that the force had marched off that morning towards Calpee. We had already gone about twelve miles, and the heat was becoming too much to bear, but there was no help for us, and so after a short rest we determined to push on, and, if possible, catch up the column, or at any events join them in camp, for we were not in a position to be left alone any longer in a country swarming with the enemy, and inhabited by people who appeared to be anything but friendly towards us. Orai is a large town, and appeared to be thickly populated. The people told us they had suffered much by the overbearing of the rebels at Calpee, and that their bazaars had been repeatedly looted by them. They also informed us that Tantia Topee had passed through there a short time before from Calpee with a very fine army and lots of guns, but that he came back by-and-bye without any guns, and that his troops ran off at our approach like pariah dogs!

The officers' bungalows and the sepoy lines of Orai were all in ruins. It appeared as though it

had once been a pretty cantonment, but now the sun was so burning hot, and the plain so arid and glaring, that it was hard to imagine any one could exist in comfort in such a country.

About 9 o'clock we set off again along the beautiful macadamized road leading from Orai to Calpee, and after going about two miles we found a sudden cessation of foot-prints and wheel-marks upon the road, and then we saw that they turned off to the right across country. The force had evidently changed route, and, after grilling in the sun some time, we learnt from a villager that they had gone to a place called Sundee, eight or nine miles off. We went on, a fearful hot wind blowing behind us all the time, without being able to procure a drop of water, until the men began to cry out, and our dogs to drop down dead.

As we passed along we saw several camels, bullocks, and tatoos, which had fallen dead from the heat, but *there was no decomposition going on*—they seemed to be drying up like mummies in this intensely powerful sun! It was almost too much to endure, and as we marched on one felt obliged to gallop from bush to bush to gain a moment's shade, for one's mouth was parched, and one's head began to feel like a ball of fire, while rings of light danced before one's eyes. We had now caught up the rear guard, and followers of the column; it was past

1 o'clock. Scores of poor sepoy, who could go no further, had taken off their belts and horrible *red cloth coats*, and lay down gasping in any morsel of shade; others, jaded and worked up to intense nervous irritability, were dragging themselves along—limping onwards with drooping heads, or staggering with a gait like an idiot, a paralytic, or a drunkard. We had marched upwards of *twenty miles* this day in the sun, and when we arrived in camp, about 2 o'clock, I felt blind, and a sensation of swimming in the brain like approaching delirium came on. Copious effusion of cold water over the head and neck relieved this, and deep sleep followed, and thus I escaped a stroke of the sun.

Every day we began to grow weaker in all arms of the force, and the difficulties of taking care of the sick, and of transporting them from place to place, increased accordingly, and this, too, at the very hour the general required a greater force, for the strength of the enemy's cavalry, and their position in Calpee, rendered them much more annoying and daring. They knew full well how the sun and scarcity of water would tell upon Europeans, and they harassed us for the purpose of drawing out our men in the mid-day heat. They had been routed in every instance by Sir H. Rose and his valiant troops, and driven day by day further and

further north ; their strongholds and cities, their artillery and ammunition, their commissariat and cattle, had fallen into our hands ; from the Nur-budda to the valley of the Jumna they had no longer a place of refuge if they lost Calpee ; this city and fort was their last great stand-by, and here the Ranee of Jhansi, Rao Sahib, the Nawab of Banda, Tantia Topce, with the Gwalior Contingent, Bengal infantry regiments, Banda troops, rohilla's, and budmashes, with an enormous arsenal and commissariat at hand, and an almost impregnable position, had determined to contest our advance mile by mile, and to harass us hour by hour.

Col. Maxwell was on the north side of the river Jumna, and the general wished to communicate with him, for by this time our ammunition was well nigh exhausted ; and on the 15th we gained Golowlee, distant about six miles from Calpee, to the east, and pitched camp along the bank of the Jumna. On our march to this position large masses of the enemy's cavalry and guns were observed along the Calpee road on our left.

They expected we should march direct along the high road into Calpee, and in this position among the tombs, on either side, and in their front, they had posted large batteries, and dense bodies of infantry and cavalry ; but we left the road and took one across country between villages, marched on

their left flank, with ravines between us, and thus rendered their offensive position a nullity.

After our arrival in camp the cavalry of the enemy came down in force upon the baggage and rear guard. Several men of the 25th N. I. were killed and others wounded, and the enemy were driven off with loss. In the onslaught they were heard to say, "You have looted Jhansi, and now you are come to loot Calpee, are you!"

The 2nd brigade with Major Orr's force had a smart encounter with the enemy on Sunday, 16th. Our force got under arms about 10 A.M., and remained in the open upwards of two hours. They were then told to take off their dress and remain in readiness; they had scarcely done this when heavy firing was heard in the position of the 2nd brigade, and the bugles again sounded for the troops to fall in. The general and staff then rode off over the plain towards the village of Diapoora. Shortly after this their infantry came swarming up the ravines between our camp and Calpee, and a brisk musketry firing ensued between them and the 86th and 25th, the enemy being driven back with loss. The 2nd brigade had had a hard fight for their post, but, as usual, it ended in the discomfiture of the foe—the 71st Highlanders dealing death among them at wonderful distances, by their splendid rifle practice.

Between our camp and Calpee was a most extraordinary labyrinth of ravines reaching for several miles from the Jumna, south, over which artillery and cavalry could make no progress, but which afforded an interminable cover of the most formidable description to the enemy's infantry. These deep rocky ravines rendered Calpee on this side almost impregnable ; in the rainy season, when the Jumna would be swollen, they would be full of water, and a greater obstacle than any river or lake ; in this hot dry weather they were so many covered ways for the approach of the enemy upon our positions, and from their number necessitated a great drain upon our suffering infantry to watch them. To the south of Calpee, along the sides of the main road, there are great numbers of huge sombre looking tombs, capable of affording shelter to large masses of troops, and, save a few tamarind topes and babool bushes, the whole country around is the most wretched, sterile, sun-blighted desert I ever saw.

Sickness and mortality were fast on the increase —Europeans and natives, and beasts also, fell victims to the incessant toil, anxiety, and heat. But there was no rest for us, and we were fighting against enormous odds, despite these drawbacks, every day. On the 17th heavy firing again told us that the 2nd brigade was attacked ; it did not

cease till about 8 P.M. on the 19th ; these troops joined our camp, on account of the wells being emptied at Diapoorra.

On the 20th the enemy made another attack upon our positions from the ravines, extending all along our front as far down as the village of Golowlee, and our officers and men suffered much from the sun.

The same evening two companies of the 88th, the camel corps, and 120 Seikhs, crossed over the river from Col. Maxwell's column.

We had been shelling the town for two days now from a mortar battery on our right front ; on the 21st the batteries from Col. Maxwell's camp opened upon the fort and town, and continued shelling without cessation.

BATTLE OF GOLOWLEE.

Between 8 and 9 o'clock on the morning of the 22nd large bodies of the enemy were seen advancing in order of battle from the Calpee road, round the villages in our front, while our pickets in this direction retired in order upon their supports. The bugles sounded, and the whole force was speedily under arms.

It was reported that the enemy had sworn to drive us into the Jumna or die, and from the dis-

position of their forces, which now began to show themselves in dense masses along our right and front, it appeared that a general action of some import really was about to ensue.

Their right, consisting chiefly of large masses of cavalry and horse artillery, came boldly to the front resting on the villages of Tehrêe and Golowlee ; and our right extending along the ravines to the Jumna appeared for a long time to remain unthreatened. Along this face was Brigadier Stewart, with the 86th, 3rd Europeans, four companies of the 25th N.I., half a field battery, a troop of dragoons, and one of 3rd Light Cavalry ; on the right of our centre were half a field battery, the Royal Engineers, and a body of the 25th, under Lieut.-Col. Robertson ; in the centre were the siege guns, howitzers, and rocket-tubes, with the Madras Sappers, under Lieut. Gordon, supported by a wing of the 71st, detachments of the 3rd Europeans, a squadron of the 14th Dragoons, a troop of 3rd Cavalry, and royal artillery guns ; to the left of the centre were horse artillery and two troops of the 14th ; and beyond these, the camel corps, and a field battery, supported by the Seikhs ; and to the extreme left the Hyderabad Contingent.

The enemy continued to advance in great force along our front, and seemed to take some pains in getting into array. Then they extended along the plain to our extreme left, and opened fire from their

guns upon our centre. Their shot either went over our heads into camp, or struck the plain in our front, and then ricocheted among us. By-and-bye they moved a battery very coolly into a tope of trees near to our left, and their cavalry rode forward almost within musket shot of ours, but when the Hyderabad Sowars made a move towards them, they fired their carbines and quietly retired.

Our shot, shell, and shrapnell began to tell upon them from the heavy guns and howitzers, and now we could see horses dashing about riderless, and evident confusion among their cavalry, who first moved to the right, then the left, and wheeled about and began to retire. Our fire was too true and too heavy to allow them to answer it from their guns any longer, and by-and-bye, after several ineffectual attempts, they limbered them up and began to retreat, while at the same moment a dense mass of their cavalry and another field battery endeavoured to get to our left flank ; but the Hyderabad Contingent were too quick for them, and turned them again. Our rocket firing was a perfect failure. One or two rockets hissed off from the tubes towards the enemy, and then suddenly buried themselves in the ground, and one or two others whizzed about erratically in the sky, and then turned back upon their friends who had wished them good speed, so the general ordered these dangerous things to the rear.

We had been upwards of two hours pounding at the enemy, then the general saw the moment for advance, and with the horse artillery, field batteries, and cavalry dashed off towards them; they then turned round quickly and fled, vast masses of their infantry making for the villages and the ravines towards Calpee, others flying south and across country over the Calpee road, while our guns and cavalry continued to rout them. In the meantime terrific volleys of musketry firing and a brisk cannonading was going on all along the ravines. On our right, while we battled the enemy in our front, their infantry advanced with such determination and in such overwhelming numbers through these ravines that our men were well-nigh overpowered. At one moment they were close upon our light field guns and mortar battery! The 86th and 25th had weakened themselves by being obliged to extend their line all along this face against such odds; but they fought bravely and disputed every foot of the line, dealing death among the dense ranks of the enemy, until reinforced by the camel corps, who trotted round from our left, dismounted, and, at a quick double, charged down upon the rebels with the general at their head, in concert with the 86th, 3rd Europeans, and 25th N. I. A yell, a dash forward from our whole line along the heights, and down the enemy went headlong into the ravines

below ! flying from the British bayonet, and dropping dead in every direction.

“ Stroke, and thrust, and flash, and cry,
Mingle with the volleying thunder,
Which makes the distant city wonder
How the sounding battle goes,
If with them, or for their foes.”

Some of them were so blanged, or overcome by opium, that they lay down like drunkards with their muskets in their hands unable to move ; but, with eyes glaring and bright like owls, they lay cursing the Feringhees until death ended their rebel course.

The 25th, who extended towards the village of Tehree, met the rebels, who taunted them for their allegiance, with a volley rushed on with a cheer into the ravines, and carried everything before them, driving the enemy back into the village, through it, and over the plain towards the Calpee road.

They saw that the day was lost, their dense masses of infantry were broken up and totally disorganized and flying, some towards Calpee, some towards the tombs and Jaloun ; our cavalry and horse artillery and field guns had turned their right and completed the general rout, and away they went, infantry and cavalry and guns, all mingled together in a pell-mell over the heights, up and down the ravines, and along the high road ! On our

extreme right, resting on the Jumna, Lieut.-Col. Louth, with a few of the 86th and a company of the camel corps, cut off a body of the rebels ten times their number, and either killed them in the ravines or drove them into the river, where they perished.

All the time the battle was raging on this side the Jumna, Col. Maxwell was pouring shell into the fort and town of Calpee without intermission, so that the enemy found but poor shelter and no rest in this place after their defeat in the field.

Our cavalry and artillery pursued them, and cut them up until men and beast could go no further and do no more.

This was a hard day's work and a glorious victory won over ten times our numbers under most trying circumstances.

The position of Calpee; the numbers of the enemy, who came on with a resolution and display of military tactics we had never before witnessed; the exhausted weakened condition of the general's force; the awful suffocating hot winds and burning sun, which the men had to endure all day without time to take food or water, combined to render the achievement one of unsurpassed difficulty. Every soul engaged in this important action suffered more or less,—officers and men fainted away, or dropped down as though struck by lightning in the delirium of a sun-stroke, yet all this was endured without a

murmur, and in the cool of the evening we were speculating upon the capture of Calpee on the morrow.

CAPTURE OF CALPEE.

On the morning of the 23rd the camp was struck, and the force moved off in two divisions—the first brigade towards Calpee through the ravines and along the Jumna, under Brigadier Stewart; the second, under Sir H. Rose, to the left along the Calpee road.

It was yet dark, and the shell from Col. Maxwell's batteries continued to pour into Calpee and upon the village of Tehree as we advanced along the interminable network of ravines. By-and-bye this village, which the enemy had hitherto held, was set on fire by his shell, and ere long we passed by it, and found the commencement of a battery and large quantities of ammunition in Agra boxes lying about the ravines. Morning soon broke, and as we continued our advance we caught sight of Sir Hugh Rose's column debouching from the village of Tehree and the ravines between it and the road. We halted a little while in these gullies and on their heights, and the sounds of the bugles echoed a thousand times through them. We could see large bodies of the enemy in the maidan below Calpee and near the tombs, but they

made no show of opposition, rather seemed inclined to fly.

As the second brigade advanced the enemy opened fire from a masked battery among the ravines upon them, but they were soon silenced, and speedily limbered up and fled towards the tombs, as the columns advanced.

We nearly captured four of their elephants in our front, but the men were called back ; and as we were going up and down these ravines, some of them forty feet deep, we saw the enemy behind the walls in the town and the smoke from a heavy gun which they continued to fire over the river at the mortar batteries still shelling the place. We halted again in front of the town nearly an hour, then the general's column came up in a line with ours ; the advance was sounded, and away we went into the town without further resistance—the enemy had fled, and Calpee was at length in our hands.

They were then pursued by Col. Gall with cavalry and horse artillery, and the Hyderabad Contingent under Captain Abbott, for many miles. All the guns they had carried away with them were captured, with many camels, elephants, and horses, and great numbers of them cut up ; and so hot was the pursuit that they not only threw away their arms, but stripped themselves of their clothing to get away faster.

We remained in the town till about 5 P.M. and then pitched camp among the tombs; but the baggage had great difficulty in getting up to camp, and many of us had the pleasure of a bivouac upon the plain without dinner, without cover—a deplorable condition after such a day's work and in such a place! Early on the morrow the troops paraded and a royal salute was fired, for it was the 24th of May—our Queen's birthday! and the troops rejoiced in the prospect of going into quarters, and the sick and wounded of going *home*.

A flying column of all arms, under the command of Lieut.-Col. Robertson, 25th regiment, left camp to follow up the rebels, who were reported to have gone towards Jaloun, and would in all probability make for the Sheer-ghaut, and so cross the Jumna and get into Oude.

CALPEE, TOWN AND FORT.

After a twelvemonth's anarchy, one ought not, perhaps, to expect to find a town in very good condition, more particularly at such a season of the year as this, but I must confess I never saw a place altogether more filthy or miserable than Calpee—a fitting habitation for rebels, outcasts, murderers, and jackals!

Most of the houses were ransacked, most of the

streets filled with lumber and dirt; in numbers we found all kinds of English plunder,—enormous masses of sugar, corn, and oil, and pieces of tents.

In the fort we captured an astonishing amount of ammunition and all kinds of military stores. Standards, tents, barrels of blank and ball ammunition, gun-barrels, locks and stocks, shot and shell; saltpetre, sulphur, charcoal, and *coal*; heaps of old brass, lead, and iron for casting; gun carriages in all stages of completion; moulds for guns, mortars, shot, and shell; tools of every description looted from our arsenals elsewhere; bales of cloth, military caps, boots, and jackets; medical stores looted from Cawnpore and Agra; surveying instruments, Government books, reams of paper, official documents, and placards proclaiming Nana Sahib the ruler from the Jumna south!

The enemy had erected houses and tents in the fort, had their smiths' shops, their carpenters' shops; their foundries for casting shot and shell were in perfect working order, clean and well-constructed; the specimens of brass shell cast by them were faultless. They had constructed new embrasures overlooking the Jumna, and pointing from some of these were well-made *wooden guns*. In the arsenal were about 60,000 pounds of gunpowder, outside it were large heaps of shot and shell ranged after the fashion of

our own. The value of the stores captured in this fort was said to be upwards of 20,000*l.* !

It would appear from the general aspect of the place that the enemy had prepared for a long stand here. Had they expected the rapid reverse they met at the hands of Sir Hugh Rose's force, they would never have allowed so large an arsenal to have fallen into our hands in such perfect condition.

The total defeat of all their arms in the general action before Calpee on the 22nd was more than they had calculated upon, and when they returned, crest-fallen and broken, they found no safety in either town or fort. We had looted Jhansi from them, we had driven them at the bayonet's point through the fearful chain of ravines of Calpee under a sun they expected would destroy us, and the next morning we marched upon their lair, confident of victory, and verified their predictions to the letter ; we at length "looted Calpee" from them !

Preparations were now hastening for the transport of the sick and wounded from camp to Cawnpore. The force was to be quickly broken up, a part to remain at Calpee, part to go to Gwalior, where our staunch ally, Scindiah, was preparing cover and stores for their reception. Every one rejoiced at this, for a more sombre and detestable

place than our camp among the tombs cannot be imagined. Well 'may Richardson have written of Calpee,—

“ Ye mouldering fanes, and melancholy tombs,
Sun-blighted wilds, where parched famine reigns !
A weary exile marks your mournful glooms,
And heaves a fond sigh for his native plains !
But vain the wish, and seldom cherish'd here :
Hope swiftly flies the soul-degrading clime,
While listless Apathy or wild Despair
Chill fervid Patriotism's glow sublime.”

Hardly can I imagine a place on the face of this earth more likely to induce such feelings in one compelled to make his home in such a spot. Thankful, indeed, were we to know we were going. Most of the officers and men were sick, and the whole force needed rest.

The general himself was very ill ; his chief of the staff, Col. Wetherall, C.B., was in a raving fever ; his quartermaster-general, Captain Macdonald, was worn out, and among the list of others going away ; the chaplain of the force, the Rev. Mr. Schwabbe, had lost his reason and was apparently sinking fast ; and other officers, wounded or exhausted by their long and arduous duties and disease, brought on by these and the terrible sun, had been ordered to England !

Such was the state of the force after the capture of Calpee, when the major-general, who was about

to depart on sick certificate, issued the following order :—

“ Field Force Orders by
“ Major-General Sir Hugh Rose, K.C.B.,
“ Camp, Calpee, 1st June 1858.

“ The Central India Field Force being about to be dissolved, the major-general cannot allow the troops to leave the immediate command without expressing to them the gratification he has invariably experienced at their good conduct and discipline, and he requests that the following general order may be read at the head of every corps and detachment of the force.

“ Soldiers ! you have marched more than a thousand miles, and taken more than a hundred guns ; you have forced your way through mountain passes and intricate jungles and over rivers ; you have captured the strongest forts, and beat the enemy, no matter what the odds, wherever you met him ; you have restored extensive districts to the Government, and peace and order now reign where before, for twelve months, were tyranny and rebellion ; you have done all this, and you have never had a check.

“ I thank you with all my sincerity for your bravery, your devotion, and your discipline.

“ When you first marched I told you that you, as British soldiers, had more than enough of courage

for the work which was before you, but that courage without discipline was of no avail, and I exhorted you to let discipline be your watchword; you have attended to my orders. In hardships, in temptations, and in dangers you have obeyed your general, and you never left your ranks.

" You have fought against the strong, and you have protected the rights of the weak and defenceless, of foes as well as of friends; I have seen you in the ardour of the combat preserve and place children out of harm's way.

" This is the discipline of Christian soldiers, and this it is which has brought you triumphant from the shores of Western India to the waters of the Jumna, and establishes, without doubt, that you will find no place to equal the glory of our arms !'

THE FALL OF GWALIOR AND FINAL DEFEAT OF THE REBELS.

The long-dreamed-of repose, however, was not yet at hand. Scarcely had the sick been sent away ere the trumpets to arms ! were again sounded. The rebels had marched upon Gwalior, defeated the troops of Scindiah, and captured his fort, guns, and treasures, and he was a refugee in Agra.

For a moment the fast drooping energies of the

general were forgot, and, though sorely stricken in body, he again buckled on the sword and was off, determined to leave the rebel no resting place.

After a rapid march of unparalleled hardships the general and forces sat down before the cantonment of Gwalior on the 16th June. The jaded troops had scarcely rested after their march, when the order to "stand to your arms" was given; the general had determined to give the enemy battle, and at once opened fire and advanced. The enemy were driven from the cantonment with great loss; then they occupied the heights, the town of Gwalior, and the fort. Another four days of hard fighting, glorious deeds, fearful and determined resistance from the enemy, and Sir H. Rose had the satisfaction of crowning his many victories by restoring the Maharajah Scindiah to the palace of his ancestors.

Sir Hugh Rose's work was now ended, and accordingly on the 28th he resigned his command, and started on the 29th for Bombay, a salute of guns from the fort of Gwalior announcing his departure.

The reduction of Calpee, the capture of this splendid arsenal; all the horse artillery and field and siege guns of the rebels, their tents, elephants, and baggage animals; the junction our general had

at length effected between the British forces of Central India and those of Bengal, coupled with the rapid dispersion of the foe from this focus of rebellion, and the re-establishment of communication on the high roads, was a consummation of the most brilliant character. Nor did the victories achieved over climate and foe end here, the *chef d'œuvre* of the campaigns in India against our ubiquitous foes was the wresting of Gwalior from the hands of these desperate leaders and their well-trained army, in which victory their most determined, spirited, and influential head—the Ranee of Jhansi—was slain, and *upwards of fifty guns captured!*

On consideration of matters connected with this last great victory of General Rose, one is tempted to dwell upon it, not as a feat of arms only, which in itself were enough to raise the commander to the highest pinnacle of military fame, but as the grand check by which the policy of that able and cunning intriguer, that bold and powerful rallier of rebellious forces—Tantia Topee, was paralyzed and destroyed.

Had this intrepid, subtle, and really talented leader established himself in Gwalior, the probability is, that Indore would next have opened its gates to his forces, and the tens of thousands in the Deccan shouted for the Peishwah. We know how Hyderabad, with its hosts of malcontents, has quivered while the

struggle for power has been convulsing the land, and recent events have proved to us how great a victory was gained by our forces over the rebels at Calpee and Gwalior.

Since then, Tantia Topee has hurried from city to city like an evil spirit ; his followers have dropped off by hundreds ; his sun has set, and he is now a miserable wanderer, flying from jungle to jungle, dreading the light of day like a murderer ; houseless, friendless, penniless, and with a price upon his head !

No excessive amount of caution, no disposition to play at hide and seek with the enemy, no inclination to allow the lustre of one victory to be dimmed ere another was won, marked the military genius of our able commander, though he started upon a work of almost appalling magnitude, deficient, in point of force, in all essentials, save courage and discipline ; with no naval brigade to fall back on, no new levies of chivalrous Sikh cavalry at his call, and with an European force lamentably small in numbers.

From the first hour the general rightly appreciated his foe. Months prior to his assuming command in the field, the British "pluck" had done wonders. Day after day we had seen what a dozen individuals could do against ten times their numbers of the enemy. Delhi had fallen into the hands of a body of British infinitely too small to

have captured such a city in the face of the hordes who held it. There were the deeds of Clive, Wellington, and Malcolm to show how the valour and dash of our troops had swept away armies ten times their number. We had the same type of foe before us now—perhaps less brave, although better drilled—and the same onward, irresistible quick march and dash would lead us to the same goal.

No one knew this better than our foe; his system, accordingly, was one of much ostentation so long as we were a long way off. No one delights in playing “a game of long bowls” more than Pandey, Rohillah, or Bundeelah, by which he may harass our troops, and always keep out of harm’s way; and no one knows better how to make use of dense jungle-land, high-standing crops, loop-holed villages, and hill forts.

A guerilla warfare is their delight, and they certainly excel in the requisite qualification—light of body, quick to perceive their own danger, thoroughly acquainted with every mile of the land they infested, and, ever ready to profit by these advantages, they gave us the opportunity of proving which was the better man as seldom as possible. The British soldier delights in a good, open, stand-up, hard fight; he is at home when he can see where to hit his man, and then he does it hard, and to some purpose; the native knows this to his sorrow, and always evades

the tug of coming to. Behind a wall he is doggedly annoying; *there* his person is not in immediate danger, and, like a pariah dog, he snarls, and growls, and looks very savage, but the instant he sees the determined rush of his antagonist, down goes his courage, like the dog's tail, and he is off like a shot, to snarl and growl, and annoy again.

Sir H. Rose well knew all this, and was determined to act accordingly. He always showed a disposition and determination to fight, whatever odds were against him; in his fights he always punished severely; he marched without cessation from the Nerbudda to the Jumna, following on the heels of the murderer with the certainty and rapidity of the blood-hound; he caught them in their lairs, broke down their fastnesses, and stripped them of their weapons; when confronted by their thousands he met them with his hundreds, never yielding an inch, and, as at Marathon of old, laid their cohorts low in the dust; by day and by night, through the perils and dangers of disease, fatigue, the battle-field, and the burning sun, he led his overtaken squadrons from victory to victory, never sheathing the awful avenging sword until he had strewn the plains of India with corpses, and scattered the enemy like the four winds.

In the vallies, on the mountains, in the city, on the plains, the whitened bones of mutineers and

rebels lie to tell their tales to all who pass by, and remind them of the avenging march of Sir Hugh Rose's army through Central India.

JOURNEY FROM CALPEE TO CAWNPORE AND CALCUTTA.

On the opposite side of the Jumna there were great numbers of bullock carts for the conveyance of the wounded and sick from our camp to Cawnpore.

We experienced considerable difficulty in getting the whole of these poor fellows over the river and into these carts before starting; the men were irritable, petulant, and stubborn, and some so sick and badly wounded as to move about very slowly—poor fellows!

A strong escort of Seikh cavalry, under the command of Capt. Matheson, was in readiness, and, after passing through the camp of Col. Maxwell, we got fairly on the road, and went off at a fine rate. This bullock train is an admirable organization for the speedy conveyance of troops and sick. The night was very cool and moonlight, and by about 3 A.M. we sighted the camp prepared for our reception at Akberpoor.

About 5 P.M., the sick having rested and refreshed themselves, the cavalcade again moved off, preceded

and followed up by our Seikh guard. About 6 A.M. the next morning we made Cawnpore in safety, and the sick were disposed of in the field hospital in that station, which was already crowded.

Cawnpore presented a thorough picture of war in all its din, excitement, and horrors. Miles of ruins, cavalry dashing about in all directions; bodies of European infantry marching in and out at all hours; hotels, crowded with sick and wounded officers; dâk-gharics rattling in and out from all quarters of the country, trumpets and bugles perpetually sounding; salutes firing from the newly made fort; everybody in a state of highstrung anxiety; the Commander-in-Chief expected hourly; and constant news arriving of more rebels on the Grand Trunk Road, more murders, more battles.

No rain had yet fallen, the thermometer stood at about 120°, and the glaring sterile earth appeared only fit for salamanders.

I visited the entrenchment of General Wheeler—a marvellous thing to have kept off the masses of rebels thirsting for the blood of our people, for an hour, for a child might have walked over it. I saw the well into which the murdered were thrown from the “slaughter-house,” but the house was no more; I saw the place where General Wheeler—brave old man—was slain, and the house from which the rebels fired upon our countrymen with

grape-shot (the Rev. Mr. Moore then inhabited it), and below, a short distance off, there was the holy river of India—the Ganges—rapidly flowing onward to the sea, laden with tons of putrescence, and, swinging on its mighty bosom, were numbers of the dead bodies of those who had ceased to worship it, floating downward to the ocean to be driven back again and again, until vultures, alligators, and crows have consumed them !

To digress a little—I ought not to forget to mention that Capt. Matheson who commanded the Seikh escort to Cawnpore had a servant who had been a faithful sepoy, and who for his faith to his old masters had lost his *nose and both hands* among his sable brethren, by order of Nana Sahib, when it was discovered that he was a spy in our pay.

Several of the Hurkarus sent from our camp at Jhansi, Calpee, and other places met with similar treatment from people of their own creed, colour, and country, and I am credibly informed that when Sir Hugh Rose's victorious army marched into Gwalior, to reinstate H. H. the Maharajah Scindiah, numbers of people by the roadside greeted their approach, some with their hands, some with their feet, some with their noses cut off by the rebels who had recently fled, and one of our lancers

was found hanging up by his feet with his head severed from his body !

This is the common revenge of the people of India ; it has been their custom from time immemorial, and I believe there can be little doubt that the people who practised these mutilations upon one another *could* feel any compunction in mutilating the helpless and hated race who were for a time exposed to all the outpourings of their vilest passions. I am at a loss to know why we should imagine it otherwise for a moment.

To return to my journey. By-and-bye the time to start for Allahabad arrived. The Trunk Road all the way was infested with large bodies of rebels constantly crossing the Ganges into Rohilcund, and recrossing into Oude ; for a body of troops it was safe enough, but for solitary travellers eminently dangerous, as the many instances of murder fully attested.

Between Cawnpore and Futtehpore we passed the Pandoonuddee, the scene of Havelock and Neil's victorious encounters with the enemy in their splendid march to the relief of Cawnpore and Lucknow. Below this, some few miles, the Madras Rifles held the road. At Futtehpore we found the railroad, and after brief sojourn at the hotel, away we went on the incomparable iron-way to Allah-

abad. We passed the "Tank House," *where some fifteen of our countrymen had held out only a few months before for three days without food or water in a burning sun against three thousand rebels!* Relief fortunately came at the end of the third day to these brave people. We arrived in Allahabad at 9 o'clock at night, and again put up at the railway hotel, a straw house, crowded with officers going from and coming to the seat of war. Everything was very dear and very miserable, and the house very badly attended to, but even this, under the present circumstances, was a relief, for the constant din and strife of the field had at length lost its charms ; but even here, the fights were fought over again, and the excitement in the change was almost as quickening as that of the battle-field we had so recently left. The road was the chief topic, and how to get down so far as Calcutta in safety. The Dâk-ghari was the quickest, and the river steamer the safest ; but most appeared to choose the road. Allahabad was also in a constant state of military ferment. The fort—a most important one—was garrisoned by Europeans ; the cantonment had been burnt to the ground by the rebels, and a new one had sprung up, larger and better than the former. It was the head-quarters, for the time, of the Governor-General — "the Lord Sahib"—as the

natives called his Excellency. The church had escaped destruction, and I can never forget the first time I heard its chimes on a quiet Sabbath morning. Years had passed since I had last heard this sweet church-bell music ; for eighteen months the Sabbath had almost been forgotten in the constant toil and din of war, and when their sounds came floating on the soft wind, a thousand memories of by-gone years awoke by their magic tones, and war and bloodshed, the fire and the sword, vanished before the sweet remembrances which came crowding around me !

Verdant vallies and golden waving corn, babbling streamlets and flowery banks ! the plough-boy's whistle and the lowing kine, the woodland cottage and the village spire, with its merry sounding bells ; the silent breathing of a Sabbath morn, the cleanly rustic, the village school, the young and happy, the old and holy, all peacefully and humbly thronging to hear some soul-inspiring godly words from the lips of the good old vicar, while the church bells are softly and sweetly calling to worship ; these and a host of other memories, and the life-time of my youth, all passed before me in an hour, when the spell was broken by the fierce rays of a June's sun—I was in India again, and *the Sabbath* was gone !

JOURNEY TO CALCUTTA.

From Allahabad to Calcutta by Dâk-ghari in these days was a terrible undertaking. From the moment the man sounded his horn at starting to the time one arrived at the railway station at Rancee-gunge, the journey was one continued gallop and dash.

The Ganges, bridged by boats at Allahabad, takes an hour to get across. Here is the first toll-house. From the Oude side the fort of Allahabad looks a very formidable, dark, frowning place. Once across the river and upon the Trunk Road, and off we start at a gallop for Benares. Occasionally a stubborn horse is put into the ghari, and lies down the moment he is harnessed; then he is goaded up again, and pushed on for a mile or two, kicking the vehicle all the time, till at last he is conquered, and finishes his run like a fiend, all in a lather, trembling and ready to drop when he is changed. The poor wretches are awfully punished, but the journey must be done, and, live or die, they are made to do it.

At Benares—this famous old Hindu city—there is a good bungalow, and here one gets a halt and a little rest; we cross the Ganges again over another bridge of boats, from whence we obtain a

fine view of the celebrated ghaut, and the city full of temples. Another rush along the Grand Trunk Road for the river Soane, this part of the journey being enlivened by the close proximity of large bodies of the rebels on either side.

At the Soane there was a camp of Peel's famous naval brigade. Crossing this river, swollen by the late rains, was a very long and difficult business.

Then the gallop to Raneegunge, diversified by kickers, run-aways, and beasts little better than asses, occupies another day, and at last we arrive at the railway hotel, as usual crowded with officers going to the wars, and coming back, wounded or sick, for old England.

Another day passes, and in the evening the train is ready, and in a few hours more we are in Calcutta, and at last have fairly bid adieu to our campaigning, with all its hardships, dangers, excitement, pleasures, and trials.

Campaigning in India has its pleasures and attractions as well as its hardships and dangers.

It has not, fortunately for us, always been the lot of our armies to pass through two hot seasons in tents constantly on the march, fighting and re-establishing British supremacy. Campaigns usually

began and ended in the cold season; one or two decisive battles in the open plain, a siege, a treaty, and all was over, followed by brevets, medals, and honours.

Not so with us in the late mutiny and struggle. Our arms had scarcely proved their power on the soil of Persia, when they were called away to fight for their own, and all that was dear to them in India.

From January 1857 to June 1858 our existence was one series of battles, stayed neither by rains, distance, nor an Indian sun, until the mighty powers arrayed against us were crushed almost to annihilation. During the long-continued marches of our troops from Arungabad to the Jumna, we occasionally had times of pleasure and incidents of an attractive kind to break the monotony of war.

Shooting of every description of game, large and small, may be enjoyed to the heart's content from October to the end of March, and while this affords an endless amusement to the sportsman, it supplies his table with viands in a truly princely style.

The early breakfast, after the march is over, under the cool shade of the banyan or tamarind tree, is always the pleasantest of repasts—nothing is more grateful, few things more enjoyable in this

life ; almost free from care, as jovial as Robin Hood's band, as hungry as hunters, voluble over passing events, and always hopeful of the future. The joke passes round,—cold peacock and ham, cold beef and cold beer are discussed,—the jam-pots emptied, pipes and cheroots, a lounge in the shadiest spot, the camp is pitched, and, by-and-bye, we retire to our respective tents, for a bath, a newspaper, a letter from home, or to write one from camp to our anxious friends far away.

Then there are sights to see, old forts to examine, large and small towns to walk through, Hindu temples, gorgeous mausoleums, Mahomedan churches, famous caves, palaces, and a score of other things to interest one, if one so pleases to use his limbs and eyes.

The natural scenery of the country ; the glorious sunrises and sunsets ; the peculiar geological and botanical features ; the natural richness of the soil ; the apathy, indolence, and indigence of the people, their pursuits, their features, their policy ; the difference immediately perceived on passing from one native ruler's territory to another, from anarchy to order, and *vice versa* ; the ruined condition of what once were mighty cities ; the marks of British supremacy and improvements through the whole length of the land, and the power of our local political administrators ; all these strike the eye,

and leave impressions upon the mind never to be effaced.

Then after a siege or battle there are happy reunions. Some have done gallant deeds and will be rewarded. Some fancy they have been slighted, and fear they won't be rewarded, and some are content to allow things to take a quiet course, while others fight and worry themselves into useless fevers about trifles.

But the marching goes on, and the enemy is always beaten, and the dinner hour comes, and there is general conviviality. The good old patriotic songs are sung, we forget our woes and troubles, there will be an end of them all soon, and then our well-earned honours will be enjoyed, while we remember our trials no more, or only as the few dark spots that tend to relieve the bright and pleasant picture of the past.

A camp life at all times, save the awful season of heat, is a most agreeable one to my thinking, and for a bachelor I know nothing in this country to compare with it. The energies of body and mind are always brought into full play, and if a man be a soldier and have any metal of worth in him, he is sure to shine. The disagreeable, querulous life of a cantonment is well nigh the most odious of existences; the *ennui* resulting from it is as inimical to mind as to body. In the field there is stir,

bustle, and vitality that increase all one's energies, while they make the time pass pleasantly—sometimes too swiftly—on the wing.

A man learns to endure and find contentment in privations that would speedily end his days in luxurious cities, and then he begins to appreciate the things he left behind him at home as only one can do under such circumstances. He sees as much of the world, social and physical, as will lend him unceasing pleasure in the quiet days of old age; he realizes the dreams of his youth, and learns to disrobe his mind of false imaginations, and to estimate facts and things by what they are in reality, and nothing more.

The awful din and horrors of the battle field, the siege, the storm, are only so many realizations of youthful fancies robbed of their false colourings. We see how a name is made, a fame won, by wondrous little incidents, day by day.

But all days are not alike sunny, nor all paths equally smooth in the changing of camp life. Sometimes a sweet harmony of surrounding happiness gladdens the heart, sometimes scenes of horror bring a deep sorrow among us; then we glide along on the stream of time with gentle zephyrs and silvery ripples and flowery banks, and anon we are hurried in darkness and storm—lowering clouds above and destruction around!

The charms of a camp life are soon experienced by most who are in it. War is a terrible necessity, but the Englishman's feeling, with the Roman of old, is—

“*Dulce et decorum pro patria mori,*”

and the burden of his song—

“Might I march thro' life again,
In spite of every bygone ill,
To the end of life's campaign
I would be a soldier still.”

CHAP. VII.

Collateral Notes.

HAVING detailed thus much of the actual campaigning, at the termination of which, happily, we found ourselves once more the lords and masters of the great tract of our Indian empire, called "Central India," I turn again to my journal to record in this place, in one connected whole, much that was noted down by me at the time in scattered portions, and which may not be deemed uninteresting, as it naturally sprang forth from the rebellion itself, without which, perhaps, in all probability, I should have remained as thousands of others are to this hour, ignorant of the habits and customs of the people of India, of the vastness and wonderful beauty of our own territories, of the mighty resources undeveloped, and as useless as the *buried talent* of old, of the cities, now desolate and mouldering, where once regal pomp and beauty reigned, of what has been done by former rulers, can be done, and is not accomplished by us; in a word, ignorant of almost everything pertaining to

the country, and foreign to our immediate personal interests.

Happily, campaigning, and such a campaign as ours was, brings with it now and then opportunities of observation and incidents at once exciting and instructive, peradventure, never otherwise obtained. One drawback we must acknowledge is inseparable, that is, want of sufficient time to devote to the study of things apart from duty, and the constant fatigue induced by marching in the face of a foe in a tropical climate. And this daily fatigue is no mean obstacle, requiring no little moral courage to combat, if one would do more than the simple march.

Many a time I have been almost too weary to indulge in the pleasure of taking notes, a neglect rarely allowed, and when unavoidable always regretted afterwards, and this must plead for many short-comings; at other times I have been struck down with fever,—cold, shivering, aching, while a burning sun shone, and hot and delirious in the cold nights,—and these days were blanks I could not fill up save by a fruitless memory of sufferings. Campaigning, however, in my humble opinion, brings with it advantages which tend to counterbalance most of its disagreeables. While it gives opportunity for the full development of individual talents and British prowess, it unveils, in all their hideous realities, the treachery, cunning, lying, cowardice, and

unmanliness of the Hindu races as a mass, and their total unfitness to govern themselves. Steeped in ignorance, bigotry, and crime, swaggering in pomp and pride of *caste*, though poor as Job, lazy by nature, and beaten down by a scorching sun mentally and bodily ; totally blind to the appreciation of the value of time ; never understanding why knowledge should be gained by study for its own value, and the pleasure it may bring ; it cannot be expected that they should be otherwise than what they are, and that the British rule, with its determined course of justice, love of truth for its own intrinsic worth, and hatred of perjury (which the native sucks from his parent), and the foul treachery which marks all their acts, should be other than a most distasteful sufferance, to be got rid of at any fitting opportunity, no matter by what crimes or at what price.

No one would be guilty of the temerity to say that all the acts of the late Government, individual and collective, were wholly righteous—in what land have they ever been so? but we may be almost bold enough to say that no power or potentate could have swayed in India more kindly, mercifully, and considerately than the British, and that none ever worked so universally for the benefit of its many races to the impoverishment of its own exchequer, and the sacrifice of the lives of so many noble,

zealous, and talented servants, whose careers have been little less than exile and patient martyrdom to the grand and worthy cause—moral and social elevation and liberty. Liberty and enlightenment, moral elevation and clean-heartedness, are quite antagonistic to the principles which have guided the rulers and ruled of this blood-stained land. They had not much to fear from what had been done, and was doing in a religious point of view, they are at present too well grounded in their own myths to yearn after a new and better and holier teaching; their *apathy*, understood in the broadest meaning of the word, cannot be conquered. More, the native, from the prince down to the household servant, however highly he may have been educated in our British schools, mixed in the best of English society, and shown a favourable superiority by these blessings, cannot forget his old ways, cannot conform to the moral restraint inculcated by us, and like the dog returns to his vomit. This is no exaggeration, but a truth painfully witnessed by us every day, and it has been so from time immemorial.

Whether this moral degradation depends upon the peculiarities of *race* is a question, and I must say I am inclined to believe much of it does. Recent inquiry into the cause of the universality of *perjury* by natives in our courts of law has pitifully demonstrated to us, and this, too, by their own leading

men's acknowledgments, their total inability of adherence to truth for truth's sake. This is so common a thing in the East, that it may cause some surprise that it should be mentioned here, but in these days now we are doing much—perhaps too much—to put native officials into power to administer European justice, it may not be unworthy a remark. It is well known that a native never is at a loss for a lie, if he thinks that lie will please his master ; and he is cunning in reading character.

At the period immediately prior to the mutiny of the Bengal army and the various contingent forces, there were several of these highly educated native princes sorely vexing under the restraint and unrighteousness of the British raj. They all had money ; some were exceedingly rich and commensurately influential. Some, whose fathers had forfeited their countries by infamously treacherous conduct and villany in years gone by, concerted together for the seduction of the British forces in Bengal, and the expulsion of the British from the land ; others who feared, perhaps, that a day of reckoning was nigh at hand for them, too readily joined, and by-and-bye there was a goodly conspiracy a-foot. There must be a king—a famous rallying point—and the old dotard of Delhi, with his young, ambitious, bad sons, and the famous city, became this, and the tools for clearer and more

cunning heads ; and women, deep intriguing women, were with them. -

The native officers of the Bengal army knew their own power, and saw that there was, perhaps, a defective system carried on by our Government. The Bengal regiments refused to do what *they* did not like, or what *they* thought would not suit a certain caste. No one can say this did not betray a weakness on the part of the Bengal Government, to give it no harsher epithet.

All this was, doubtless, well weighed by the conspirators, so well, indeed, that they well nigh won the game. The awful result is too well known, but the great lesson it so woefully taught us is already beginning to be forgotten, and the cringing hypocrite again finds reliance and trust placed in him.

These cunning conspirators made a handle of Christianity. The blind, uneducated, fanatic sepoy believed a lie, and then the cunning hit upon the *grease*. Pigs' fat ! !. broken caste ! that was enough. They passed the *cake* from regiment to regiment, from town to town, from village to village. It was cleverly done, and we all know the awful events which proclaimed sedition and conspiracy let loose over the whole land. I do not believe that they credited for an instant that we could withstand against such a combination ; and I never did believe, nor do I see any reason to do so, that the

fear of being made Christians was the cause of the mutiny.

The cunning, educated fiends who organized the whole had a grand stake to play, for they were disinherited, and they made use of every expedient to further their vain, ambitious ends, and Christianity was one, but not the main, lever by which they worked.

They had more captivating baits, larger pay, loot, anarchy, native rule, idleness, and their loose, slovenly, military system and swagger.

Such inducements as these were, in themselves, more than enough to tempt the infanticide Rajpoot, the bigoted Brahmin, the fanatic Musselman, and the luxury-loving fat-paunched ambitious Mahrattah, for they all joined together in the cause ; the cow-killer and the cow-worshipper, the pig-hater and the pig-eater, the crier of " Allah is God and Mahomet his Prophet," and the mumblor of the mysteries of Bram !

That the native had pretty strong faith in the cause he had espoused is evident, from the fact that mutiny went on in detail, and, indeed, such was his belief in the impregnability of great Delhi and the thousands arrayed there under the Mogul, that he continued to beat towards that city long after it had fallen into the hands of General Wilson. Nor was this all. Long after this city, Cawnpore, and

Lucknow, and other strongholds had been wrested from them, were they content to give in? No! with them it was still a hopeful cause so long as the cities of Central India were in their hands.

It often struck me that these men had a method of subsistence totally different to our ideas of how a large body of men should be fed; yet, in all the places we passed through after them, we found little or nothing. Again, although among their own people they constantly carried off girls and women from among them, and maltreated those to whom they belonged, yet did these same people supply them with food, and money, and news. The peasant, with the rebel sepoy, evidently dreaded and hated us. They were in and out, backwards and forwards in the many towns of Central India, and each town is in itself generally fortified in some way or other. Like rats before terriers, whenever our forces marched on a town or village the enemy had just gone, having emptied the flesh-pots and flour-bags, and people's purses, the same people always professing adherence and submission to the British, and always harbouring the rebel.

I frequently talked with natives about the present state of the country to elicit, if possible, a reason of their own for the rebellion. So far as I could understand from such as appeared to give the question any consideration, there had long been a

distrust in the minds of the natives relative to their hereditary possessions from the more influential heads of their races to the pettiest zemindar of the land. Confiscation after confiscation had been made, which appeared to have thoroughly aroused their long dormant passions to a pitch hard to be restrained. Whatever plea we may have in extenuation of the act of wholesale annexation, it cannot be doubted, that while we went on despoiling royal houses, whose internal economy, domestic and politic, gave us such constant cause of irritation, and, indeed, were in many cases, according to European views, which teach us to regard the welfare of the *people* as paramount, fit objects of wrath, we took no care to strengthen our sprawling arms so as to be at any moment ready to hold with an iron grasp that which we had assumed with a feather.

Edicts after edicts had gone forth through the land, and thrones crumbled and princes became pensioners ; some, indeed, had openly avowed their determination to live in comparative beggary rather than succumb to such an indignity as was offered to them by our Government ; and this they persisted in, long after our civil and military servants had taken unto themselves the administration of the affairs of their states. The Ranee of Jhansi never would take the proffered pension.

These assumptions were so totally opposed to all

natives' ideas, who care nothing about the villany of their rulers' courts, the barrenness of their lands, the universal want of good roads through their territories, the injustice of subordinate officials, the rapacity of their *head-men*, and a score of other evils, that nothing less than deep-rooted hatred and a determination to exterminate their princes' oppressors, whose good *intentions* they *could* not understand, were engendered in their hearts.

Then there was their universal ignorance of British resources, geography, daily news, in a word, of everything concerning England, to strengthen them to run to deeper ruin. They saw the troops we marshalled to coerce them into subjection were their own brethren in everything save the sepoy's dress, and that the few European officers, civil and military, were everywhere, at any hour, an easy prey, whenever the word should go forth to rise and slay their enemies.

I remember asking one old man about the country and its owners, when he significantly said to me, "The jungles, sahib, the trees, the rivers, the wells, all the villages, and all holy cities belong to the Sircar; they have taken all — everything (*bhut-achcha*)—very good, what can we do?"

I have no doubt it appeared quite clear to the heads of families, villages, towns, and states in the neighbourhood of such stations as we had already

occupied, that the dreaded day of absorption was nigh at hand for all of them, for the mental eye of the native is exceedingly microscopic, and there was reason to magnify a dreaded evil when Oude and Nagpore and other instances were before them.

When the lamentable condition of their ignorance of everything, save their rice and pay, is taken into consideration, it cannot be wondered at if they rather approve of a lie, well magnified by each repetition, than a meagre, bare fact; and a well concocted lie, to the effect that all would be lost unless one final struggle for their ancient birth-rights were made, would be enough to add to that which they already knew to be too true.

Real honesty, as understood by Englishmen, forms no part of a native's character. He is too cowardly to tell the truth, and too hypocritical and timid to resist his brother, if such has the shadow of a weapon at hand. I was often surprised at the child-like conduct of huge ugly-looking brutes in their quarrels with one another. To *hear* them, one would imagine torrents of blood and broken bones must result, but to see the way they scratch, and pull each other's hair, and bite, and then go off crying like children to complain to some one that they have had a beating, is ridiculous.

Education among them is generally of the most meagre description, and this, too, principally con-

fined to such as are the heads of their villages and towns, who accordingly lord it over the mass, and are looked upon as prodigies. Even when some few have extended their acquirements to the knowledge of several other languages, it appears to be productive of nothing beyond. Many, indeed, are conversant with four or five tongues ; but this is not to be wondered at when the affinity of the languages and the constant inter-territorial communication are taken into consideration ; and these many, though excellent masters of the English language likewise, cannot be called learned, for their learning leaves them pretty much as they would be without it. It does not expand their minds, it does not unfetter their prejudices ; they are not free to act upon their extraneous attainments, but at all times must conform to the customs, however vile they may be—and many of them are certainly heinous—of the people to whom they belong, or *suffer* the martyrdom of excommunication, loss of *caste*, and all the social benefits of life. This is the *bugbear* of India. It destroys all the good that might otherwise accrue to those sensible of the benefits of English customs, and willing to conform to them.

But spite the opposition met with among their own people to the infringement on their time-honoured customs, the educated Brahmin knows little or nothing of geography or history, and never

reads, as a rule, for the pleasure it brings. They have always an idea that one does so for the *money* it will make, and that that is the sole object of life. To do anything without getting rupees can never be understood, and to study the works of great men to feed the mind with their thoughts is to them marvellously absurd. They always shake their heads, seeming secretly to believe such an assertion a vague subterfuge.

As a mass, they appear to live in a mental cavern, and to be perfectly content with their primæval darkness. We may exclaim, "Let there be light!" and endeavour to penetrate their cavern with our torches, or reflect a little from without from the pure halo which surrounds us, but there are serpents and scorpions, and other horrors, and huge bats around and above, which cling to the dank unwholesome stones, and fight with the light we bear, till they have dashed it from us, or we are driven away by the venomous creatures in our path; or cholera or deadly fever may sit at the gate, gathering their fated ones together, and whom they strike they slay, for their uncultivated minds are weaker than their bodies, and when these fall, the former cease to exist; the town is taken, and the citadel is empty, and the fight is soon over.

I remember one day talking with one of these "well-educated Brahmins," who had received a fair

training in English, about their dogged adherence to customs and things that should have passed away a thousand years ago. He was an intelligent fellow, and appeared instantly ready to combat every question put by referring to antiquity as the grand reason. What had suited so many millions for so many ages must be suitable to all eternity ; whatever change might occur elsewhere, it signified little to them, for their books contained precepts and ordinances immutable. He had read the English Bible, and thought it " a very *interesting, clever* book," but nothing to be compared with their own more ancient records, and he could not understand why we should shuffle off a belief which had suited so many for this life, and told them so much about the next. To discard the religion of his fathers would be simply to evince a human weakness which he prided himself to be above ; to change one's faith would be to raise a suspicion of instability in the newly-adopted one, and this was a danger not worth trying. .

I was amused at his notion of the cause of earthquakes. He said they were informed and told to believe that there was a huge serpent coiled up in the bowels of the earth, and that when the prodigious creature required a little more breathing-room, or felt uneasy in his imbedded position, that he uncoiled his mighty body, shook himself,

snorted, and reposed again in groans, and that the *earthquakes* assuredly followed these subterranean antics!

He also said that the world was doubtless far less Edenic now than it was when his ancient forefathers trod it; that "in those good old days there were good and holy men whose songs would cause the mountains to dissolve and rains to descend from heaven, and rivers to pour forth from barren places!" Happy times! and that "their wise good men could do so now—by what process he knew not—but that the people were not good enough for the working of such miracles; but that the sick and those possessed of the devil, the unfruitful, the lame, the blind, could all be healed now, as of old, by their good and holy men."

Their women cannot be permitted to read or write, or engage in anything elevating to the mind. They are the abject slaves of their husbands, to bear children while yet children themselves, and set his house in order. Can we wonder at the ignorance of these sons of such women, whose time is taken up with cants at the well in the morning, quarrelling and adorning themselves in jewels at home, or bedaubing their floors and walls with a solution of cow-dung and other abominations with their tiny hands prior to the evening gorge?

Then their *caste* precludes progress, social and

intellectual. Once a tailor, always a tailor ; once a carpenter, always a carpenter ; a cobbler, for ever a cobbler, from father to son to the end. Here the saying of Apelles of Cos is their immutable law, “ Ne sutor ultra crepidam.”

And thus striving to gain by enterprise out of their ordained walk of life never enters their minds ; and so *time* is nothing to them ; to-morrow will do as well as to-day, for at the end of the month he gets his price, and he and his all are contented. His mud-hut only requires a little cow-dung and whitewash occasionally ; his furniture consists of a few stones and earthen pots ; his bed is a mat, or now and then, his turban (an easy thing to take up and walk with) ; and his food, a little rice and spiced grease. They are all servants of servants ; independence of character they have none.

In such places as English rule and institutions prevail, the native appears only to have benefited in the amount of rupces he may obtain for his services, and these he diligently turns into silver or gold ornaments for his own wrists, and the noses, necks, ears, wrists, and ankles of his women ; added to this, experience declares that he has increased in *impudence* and drunkenness.

But drunkenness is an attainment they pretend not to possess, though they drink like fishes European drinks when they can obtain them, and at

other times vile concoctions potent in poisonous inebriating qualities.

They know full well the great failing of the British soldiery, and where they could they always exposed their rude jars full of their deadly beverages to our troops. In more than one instance the officers of Sir H. Rose's force had to destroy gallons of vile trash called *toddy*, to prevent their men falling preys to the cunning natives.

In a conversation I had with a Brahmin in high position, I questioned him upon this topic, and said it was well known that rich and influential Brahmins drink the forbidden liquors even to excess. "Yes," he replied, "the high Brahmins in Calcutta and other large cities *can* do so, for who is there to censure *them*; gold covers a multitude of sins." This was the answer of Gunna-Shaster, the commissariat officer of his Highness the Maharajah Holkar.

Yet I have seen a Hindu positively dying from starvation (one of our many enemies) refuse the kindly offer of a little brandy and water to revive his exhausted frame. This, I fancy, was owing to its being tendered by the polluted being in the shape of an English officer.

Beggars, whose appearance looks very like people who have lived on their own fat for an indefinite period, will often come to one's tent-door slapping

their bare shrivelled-up stomachs with their bony wrinkled hands, and pray for *food*. They don't want food, at least food from the hands of a vile *casteless* Briton ; for if you offer them some clean good bread, they will shrink away from you as one would from a leper ; but they will greedily snatch at your copper coins ! these, of course, are not polluted.

If you are parched, and ask for a drop of water, and have no cup of your own to drink from, their *brass pot* is too sacred a thing to be polluted by your lips, and so you must join your hands together, receive the water in them, and thus quench your thirst ; yet have I seen, times out of number, these pure specimens of the genus homo—men, women, and children, all standing together up to their knees in a filthy tank or town-puddle washing their teeth, spitting into the water, washing their persons, their filthy rags, and their feet in the same, while pigs, dogs, and horses were wallowing in it, and polluting it, at the very moment women were bearing pots full of it away upon their heads for the culinary purposes of the day. A sweet wholesome decoction !! No wonder such seasoners as Harvey's sauce are at a discount among this cleanly race.

I know of few things more wearisome than keeping up a conversation upon any topic with these people. We are not blessed with the fitful freaks

of a British climate. In India the weather is an eternal blue, glare, and frizzle, so this topic is not useful. There is always a fight somewhere, and fighting is almost like the weather, so constant and common a thing, that your friend in the turban thinks nothing of it—it is all *nuseeb*—luck. There is education, they don't care about that; your profession, your income, they know it to a farthing; but be you as poor as a church mouse, they never give you credit for poverty, firmly believing there is an inexhaustible treasury always open to you to any amount, and that my lord has nothing to do with his rupees but throw them away. A beggar looks upon a rupee no more gladly than a poor Englishman does upon a penny. Well, what can one talk about? Eating and drinking is out of the question; to speak of their prejudices and fanaticism is unprofitable, to say the least; husbandry and the industrial arts are nothing, the rice grows somehow and he eats it, and European articles of every kind are fast superseding native wares; and this is a pity, since the rubbish of British markets is displacing many of the really good and useful commodities made by the natives. A hawker's box or bundle is a really marvellous affair. He comes to one's tent, makes great salaam, squats on his haunches, and patiently exposes the wonders he carries about from the western shores to the City of

Palaces, so, finding no good topic can be discussed, one quietly turns round to the philosophic Hindu hawker and bids him *open!* to while away an hour in *observing* some new trait or peculiarity.

“What have you brought?” “I got everything, sahib, silk gowns, muslin dresses, socks, neckties, braces, blacking, cambric handkerchiefs, lucifer-matches, sardines, writing paper, eau-de-Cologne, black ink, dog chains, and hair-brushes; babies’ socks and Epsom salts; essence of ginger and parasols; Windsor soap and curry-combs; plenty things got, sahib.” “How much for that box of lucifers?” “Six annas (ninepence), sahib!” “How much for that bottle of blacking?”—“Two rupees, sahib” (only 4 shillings!) “How much for the phial bottle of essence of ginger?”—“Three rupees, sahib!” “Oh! that’s too cheap.” “Stopper got, bottle, sahib!”—“Rowland’s macassar! real—Europe—French—sahib! I swear.” “Don’t want, always use pigs-grease when bears can’t catch!” “Wah—h! sahib very fine gentleman, think cousin to Governor-General!” says the cunning fellow; and so, looking at twopenny padlocks, shilling razors, rotten socks, Martin’s blacking, and Congreve’s infernals, all together not worth as many pence as these audacious hounds ask rupees, one whiles away an hour now and then, surrounded by wonder-gazing Hindus, each speculating on the amount of rupees sahib is likely to

throw away. However, they *are* useful, very, sometimes, and, of course, one must expect to pay a little more seven or eight hundred miles away from Calcutta, Bombay, or Madras, for one's "Rowland's," one's "ginger," one's "babies' socks."

These men follow in the wake of an army, and make vast sums of money by the variety of trash they hawk about.

Not a little pleasure does it give one to witness the marked difference of the Parsees in their business habits and shops. The most like Europeans in independence, ability, enterprise, integrity, and mental worth, are these followers of Zoroaster, I have ever met with in India. If they are proud, they have a reason for it; if they are rich they owe it to no Hindu or Musselman; if they are better informed, as they all are, they owe it to themselves alone; if they lean more to the British than any other race in the land, it is because British justice and equitable laws protect them from the rapine and persecution they have so often suffered under other powers. It has been said they refuse to use fire-arms, and in any way to have anything to do with this *elemental* emblem of the Deity—fire. As a rule, there can be no doubt that they strictly adhere to their tenets; but there are no laws which do not admit of exceptions, and in the case of the last mutiny, the Parsees found that they might bear

arms against the treacherous Hindu, and shoot down the murderer as a dog. They suffered equally with the Europeans at the hands of the mutineers, and in many cases worse, but they are a peaceful people, and bore their distresses manfully while we punished the aggressors. Through these merchants we obtained all that was necessary for the march from Bombay to Gwalior, and in a regular manner. Necessarily the price of articles increased the farther we journeyed, and it was not so much at Cursetjee or Jamsetjee that we grumbled as at Messrs. Allsopp and Co. and Bass and Co., or their bottlers, for infamously defrauding us of our *just measure*. A quart bottle of beer in India is not a *quart*, it is an *imperial pint and four ounces by measure*, or a little more or less, as the bottom of the bottle is poked up higher or lower.

Now, when it is remembered that we paid from *fifteen to twenty-six rupees* (30 to 56 shillings) per dozen for our beer, it must be confessed that it was hard to be robbed of one's beer at such a price ! for instead of getting a dozen *quarts* we only had a dozen *imperial pints*, and about a third of a pint ! !

If Messrs. Brewers, Bottlers, and Co. only felt an Indian hot season, and the want of a *quart* of beer for their hard-earned pence, they would surely *increase* the size of their bottles as much above the just quart as they are now above the *pint* ! !

The towns and villages we passed through are eminently characteristic of the people. Usually they have not the remotest pretence to regularity, and their hovels are clustered together just as though they had tumbled from the clouds—some on mounds, some in hollows, some on the top of older ones. This looks very odd at first sight, but it is easily accounted for. The filthy, lazy hound is too idle to walk a hundred or fifty yards from his door to carry away his dirt and household rubbish. There are no municipal associations in Hindu towns, and so he deposits this at his door, or more generally at his neighbour's, and around his house from day to day and year to year, for the crows, pigs, and pariah dogs to carry away. His wattle and dab hut, valued originally at about eight shillings, by-and-bye begins to crumble away, and at last tumbles in a body upon the heap. The proprietor either goes to a new locality, or re-erects another hut upon the heap made by his rubbish and ruins, and so from year to year the village rises and rises upon these accumulated dung-hills, and gives the peculiar appearance so frequently observed.

However beautiful the pasturage may be around towns and villages, the people always drive their cattle into their towns and huts at night, and back again into the grazing land in the morning. Owing to the dry sapless nature of the herbage in general,

the milk and butter are wretched productions. The milk they take at night is usually boiled to keep it till the morning, then they pour it into *brass pots*, and carry it about for sale with their dirty black fingers usually soaking in it. The butter looks, and frequently tastes, like sickly melting spermaceti ointment. One can scarcely wonder that *pork* and *pigs* should be the forbidden food of the East. We all know that the cleanest pig of the most scrupulously clean English farmer is, at best, but a dirty, grubbing brute ; but in India, where they run loose about the streets and slums of the towns, voraciously seizing and feeding upon the vilest excrements and other bestialities, it may be imagined what food their flesh would be ! They are almost all black, and shaped more like hyenas than anything else. To call a man a *pig* is considered very vile abuse, and usually provocative of great anger. But not one whit viler than the pigs are the village *dogs*. They skulk about the gullies and heaps of dung all day, with their mouths always wide open, and grin, and snarl, and howl all night. They feed upon every kind of offal ; I have seen them tearing one of their own dead species to pieces, and voraciously feeding upon dead human bodies. They frequently go mad, they belong to no one and are rarely killed, consequently they swarm in each village and town. The mild Hindu is certainly a lover of cleanliness !

When people live as these live, can we wonder that any more vigorous race should have conquered them and tortured them into better ways, for I verily believe they will do nothing for their own good save by coercion from without ! The Musselman despises them, and he is not a very electric being, save when lit up for the hour by fanaticism and love of feud. The women, generally speaking, are tolerably good looking when young, some are almost beautiful, but they marry so young and live in such vicious habits that they soon age, and then are little less than hideous hags. Intermixture of the European and Hindu races is a total failure. In most cases the offspring becomes blacker than the mother, inherits all the failings of the native, and the vices of the European without his energy. They are frequently pitiable specimens of moral and physical degeneration.

As a rule, the native women run away and hide themselves at the sight of Englishmen, but they do not veil, and many a well-got-up Rebecca may be seen with her pitcher at the well in the morning time, canting and laughing, while some huge Brahmin, totally naked save a tiny rag, is scrubbing his carcase close by her. The East induces a totally different code of morals for its people to what we have been accustomed to in Europe,

Almost all of them, men, women, and children, chew betel-nut, lime, and a pepper leaf. They don't know why they do it—it is custom, and as I was told, when mixed with cloves, mace, cardamoms, and coriander seeds, “becomes enchanting.” The custom might have originated in some wise advice, for the compound is astringent, antacid, and carminative, and possibly a good thing in a country where diarrhoea and cholera are so frequent ; but the habit is a very disgusting one, and the use of the compound discolours and destroys the teeth, while it gives to the tongue a “dragon's-blood” hue, which is very revolting to witness, particularly in an otherwise passable young lady. The more stir and bustle there is going on, the faster they chew and eject saliva. I shall never forget the truly awful amount of chewing I witnessed among his Highness Maharajah Holkar's attendants, when we visited his durbar at his palace in Indore. It was almost dangerous to pass through these *betel-enchanted* beings to the presence of their prince.

As Jezebel of old painted her eyes to add to their dazzling brilliance, so do the Jezebels of India to this very day. Antimony and fine charcoal from a little box is carefully painted on the edges of the eyelids. It may add to their beauty in their lord's eyes, and they also say it strengthens the sight ; but this I question, as the shrivelled old

women, whose sight is fast declining, do not appear to patronize the paint. Perhaps, they have seen enough.

Race, doubtless, has much to do with the colour of man's skin, but there can be no doubt that the sun has a marvellous influence upon the texture and colour of his tissues. The farther one travels from the line, so far as my experience enables me to judge, the lighter colour the skin assumes in India. I have seen Mahrattahs nearly as fair as English, quite as fair as Italians. I have seen Musselmen in Southern India as dark as Cingalese, and in Cawnpore as fair as ourselves. I have seen a Musselman tolerably fair in the Deccan, and after eighteen months marching in the sun almost as dark as an Ethiopian. I have seen an English officer, rosy and fair from Great Britain, nearly copper-coloured at the end of our campaign.

I was always struck at the peculiar childishness of the amusements of these people. As they are vacant in mind, so are their amusements rendered. Tom-toms, squeaking pipes, and dancing girls, snake charmers, and jugglers, are their standing amusements. And old men and young, equally credulous, form willing audiences, but never so willing as when there is a sahib who is anxious to spend a rupee or two for the tamashah. Indian jugglery is very clever, but not to be compared

with our British wizards' feats. The most extraordinary thing I ever saw in my life was a trick of suspending all apparent vitality in a little boy, and causing him to sit in a constrained posture upon the top of a walking-stick some three feet high without support. And there he sat motionless in the air for some time, until he was taken down and laid upon the earth! He was stiff and cold,—eyelids firmly closed and motionless, stomach shrunken in like death, and chest motionless. His jaw was fixed, and the fingers and thumbs doubled in as in epilepsy. By-and-bye the man breathed into his nostrils and lips, touched his eyes with his thumbs, made passes over his face and chest, slapped his abdomen, and chafed his legs and feet a good deal; and by degrees, the muscles of the chest and abdomen began to move slowly, then the abdomen swelled and collapsed, the chest heaved, and a deep sigh escaped from the child. "Ah-h-h," said the father, and again passed his magic hand over the face and chest, and chafed the feet. The eyes opened—an awful stare—now the mouth, and then the father flexed the joints, and by-and-bye the lad rose up and made a profound salaam. He seemed much exhausted and pale, and the mother very anxious for him. I never saw anything so like a miracle in my life. There was no chloroform, there were no assistants, the stick he sat on was a com-

mon thick walking-stick, the catalepsy was not feigned, it was real and awful, for I carefully examined the child. The father said, "He had died, sahib, and I caused life to come again." Had Mesmer ever been in India?

Perhaps one of the most curious of Hindu sights is the witnessing of the celebration of their festivities. Great preparations are made for them by old and young of both sexes. Money is subscribed by all in greater or lesser sums, according to their social positions.

All things being fully prepared by those delegated to take the prominent parts in the celebration, the tom-toms and pipes commence to call the various grades to each particular locality decorated for the festivity.

About 9 o'clock at night fires are kindled, torches lighted, little lamps trimmed, and their tawdry temples set into order and bonfire-like brilliance.

The poorer class have but a sorry display. Their show consists of a few leaves and tinselled paper, inside which a fainting light struggles for existence in the bottom of a bit of cocoa-nut shell. Some two or three score of natives assemble round this spot, and commence their hideous orgies, which are to last day and night for days together. About three yards from the door, of this fragile show stands a pyramidal bundle of sticks, cotton, and

cocoa-nut leaves. This dirty mass of vegetables represents the god they are about to sing of, pray to, invoke, and ultimately burn.

When a motley assembly has arrived, three or four of the most demoniac specimens of antediluvian ignorance appear round this pile, followed up by some dozen others not quite so madly attired. They then commence their songs, dancing round the pile, while they emulate Apollo with short sticks and shells, against which they constantly clink a rude brass chain. The dance quickens, their gestures become more savage, their clinking louder and louder, while one of the privileged quietly walks among the people looking on, and suddenly smothers some unfortunate wretch's face with a handful of red dust—dragon's blood—which gets into his eyes and mouth, and which he bears and quietly walks away to rub off.

The multitude are all hubbub, vacantly staring, laughing, or fighting. Then comes a break into the savage scene of dancing. A gaudy coloured paper box-like temple, of some size, is borne upon the shoulders of four men, preceded by tom-toms, sticks, and what they call songs. I remember seeing one of these paper lantern-looking things carried to the scene of dancing, and with great care lifted to the ground. While the fanatics were bowing and grimacing before it, some wag of their own people

quietly dropped a stone through the roof. Oh! the rage, the deadly passion displayed by their priests! One rushed about frantically, swearing he would kill somebody or something, while the mob bah-bahed him and dissuaded him. He tore and foamed, stammered with rage, and shook his head until I really expected it to drop off. I interrogated him, and wished to know what he would do if he caught the perpetrator of so blasphemous an act, and he savagely said, "I would take his life from his throat—yes!" By-and-bye, peace being restored to the troubled waters of their hearts, they muttered something, and cried out in English, "Quick march!" Off went the tom-toms, and sticks, and shells, with the fractured paper temple in their rear.

Wandering from this sight to another. I was greatly struck by the wide difference exhibited in all the details of the getting up part of this second tamashah. This I found to be a show of the havildars—native serjeants—and their friends.

In the centre of a large area was erected a kind of temple of some considerable size, large enough to admit of people walking in and out of it. It had six pillars gaudily painted and tinselled, and the back of the temple was all pure white silver paper. The lamps outside were so arranged as to throw a brilliant light upon the silver-looking scene within, which in its turn reflected out from the temple.

Upon the pillars outside ballet-girls were painted, one playing a fiddle, another salaaming a monstrous production of the imagination, while another was flying upon the back of a *fish*. At a short distance from this temple lamps were placed about four feet apart, and on either side the multitude squatted or stood, while in the centre of this assembly, and opposite the temple, were the dressed-up individuals who were to sing and perform.

One handsome young havildar was dressed up as Huri-Vishnu-Chandroodoo, another as his wife, another as his daughter, and a fourth as pantaloon. The latter important personage created much merriment; his face was foolishly besmeared; he wore an artificial white beard à la Socrate, and a paper fool's-cap, an old red jacket, and black trowsers; he carried in one hand a slender reed, in the other a goatskin full of cotton, with which he frequently belaboured the youth who intruded within the magic circle.

Huri-Vishnu was a most important personage, brilliantly arrayed in gold and silver tinselled-work about the head, shoulders, and waist; from his helmet to his epaulettes, which were prodigious, fell a most graceful garland of flowers on either side, and from these others streamed down to about his ankles. Around his neck hung a chain and other wreaths, which mingled with the folds of his dress

in a very picturesque manner. In one hand he held an arrow, in the other a bow, and looked to me very like pictures of ancient Egyptian kings. His wife—Madame Huri-Vishnu, if you please—was an equally well got-up recruit, as was also the daughter, of smaller size. Chaplets and crowns, necklaces and furbelows, made their personations excellent, very far removed from the masculine gender.

All being ready—the clown having cleared the stage—the multitude having taken to their haunches—the play commenced. A prompter, painfully visible, read aloud from a book songs of war, peace, and love, and the transformed went through them admirably. The women—*i. e.*, the men—were very graceful, and, to complete their disguise, their *nose-rings* and *toe-rings* were not the least conspicuous parts of their dress. They sang and danced, and sang while the crowd laughed and smoked their hubble-bubbles, and murmuringly praised them.

This continued till dawn. Many were the piles that blazed that night in honour of Vishnu; loud, and long, and awful was the tom-toming, and distressingly shrill the strains of the pipe of India's Pan.

I may as well mention in this place a little interesting incident, which I noticed in one of my evening rides, characteristic of the religious state of

thousands of Hindus. One evening on my return home, quietly indulging in the cool refreshing air, and the soft beauties of the setting sun, I saw in the distance the faint flickering of a fire. The moon was rising bright and beautiful, and, as I felt nowise inclined to hurry, I turned my horse's head towards the fire. When I arrived at the spot the following scene presented itself. Five men, three women, and four children were busily engaged in the preparation of a burnt-sacrifice to God. They had chosen a flat piece of the plain for their work, and here they had brought together their various offerings.

On a small area of ground—about five feet square—they had scraped up the soil about three inches high so as to form a small square inclosure, which was again divided in like manner by two other little ridges of earth. Into each of these divisions were placed, facing the moon, bits of cocoa-nut shells in which a little cotton-wick was burning oil. Between these little lamps were pieces of cocoa-nut and boiled rice upon leaves, upon other little leaves pieces of sugar, and here and there plantains and tiny wreaths of varied coloured flowers. Behind this primitive fane an old man and a little boy held up a sheet. On the other side of the sheet were three other members of this sacrificial family, preparing various things

for the consummation. By-and-bye they bound a goat, sprinkled it with water, and prepared to slay it. The priest then took off his turban, and with a rusty bill-shaped knife, by one blow, severed the goat's head from the body. The bleeding head was taken by the woman, and placed upon the ground opposite the moon. She then sprinkled it with water, and while the eyelids opened and closed involuntarily, she smiled, muttered some few more words, sprinkled it again with water, and closed the eyelids with her fingers.

The body of the goat was left where it fell bleeding.

A male fowl was then brought and sprinkled by the woman. This the priest put between his legs, and quietly cut off the head. He flung the body away, and gave the head to the woman, who placed it beside the head of the goat with care, and honoured it with no less sprinkling, muttering, and smiles.

The boys then proceeded to blow up the fire with their mouths, and the people to prepare to eat. At this stage they offered me some cocoa-nut milk, rice, and sugar. I ate and drank a little with them; this seemed to please them amazingly. I was now told that they were sacrificing to Vishnu in heaven for the benefits vouchsafed to them in restoring a sick brother to health.

The fires burnt brilliantly, and while the flesh was being prepared for consumption, they sang some little hymn, and said a few prayers, all the while bowing and salaaming towards the moon.

The smell of the cooking was very savoury, the flesh from the pot might have been good, but I now left them to their rice, flesh, and their God, with a salaam, and rode home. As I rode away I could not help thinking of the Jews, their flesh-pots, their sacrifices, and their progress from polytheism to the one grand magnificent idea of the Deity.

No one can form an idea of the physical beauty and grandeur of Indian scenery whose experience is limited to the arid districts of its coasts. But we cannot amplify upon such a topic. Once removed from the scorching, dazzling, arid climate of the sea-boards, and over the ranges of the mountains which divide Central from Southern India, a totally different climate is entered, and every feature of the country is altered. Here, indeed, is a land suited to European colonization and enterprise, at least a thousandfold better than the torrid, swampy, pestiferous deltas they appear to have tried and failed in. Every kind of vegetable required by man and beast flourishes; the plains are like extensive parks; the jungles, very often, like mighty forests; the rivers, to which our rivers of England are but rills, are beautiful and burdened with wealth,

with gems and precious metals, choice marbles and other stones; the hills are clothed with stately trees, sweet smelling shrubs, and plants rich in perfume and medicinal virtues; the cultivated plains abound in the sugar-cane, the opium poppy, wheat, maize, and multitudes of other valuable cereals used by man and beast; there are long groves of tamarind trees, mango trees, peepul trees, gigantic banyan trees, and wood-apple trees, all yielding grateful shade to the weary traveller in the mid-day hours, and some delicious fruits for his daily repast; jungle shrubs and cultivated plants give up their brilliant permanent dyes for the cotton which is so soon to be woven from their neighbouring plants; iron-ore of the most superior quality abounds in many districts, but is only worked by the natives in a rude way. Carbonate of soda and common salt are obtained and sold for distant states. I can never forget the *common salt* we, for the time being, made use of while the battle of Koonch was being fought. It was as white as snow, and in crystalline masses, as large as the finest crystals of the iodide of potassium! This salt was being transported from one state to another when we fell in with it opposite Koonch.

With such rivers and tanks, and hills and verdure, such richness of nature poured out so lavishly for the scanty care the swarthy sons of India bestow

upon her, one is perpetually constrained to exclaim, "What a lovely country!" and, "What would it not produce were Englishmen blessed with such a charge!" Then there are the never-ceasing wonders of God's heavens to delight and astonish one; such warm and wondrous colouring with sunrise, a volume of glories in every beam of light! Angry frowns, streams of blood, and cold steel-like flashings of light, herald his coming through a thousand cloudy gates to reign supreme, and to pass away in fields of golden rosy æther to other lands and colder skies. One dip below the horizon, one moment more, and then we turn to cold deep bluey starlight nights; all that was brilliant and eastern is gone, and we are surrounded by stars like magic. This is the condition of this part of India for upwards of seven months, cool, enjoyable, invigorating, and healthy; then gradually comes on the heat day by day, and for *four* months it pours down with intense and truly terrible powers, the rivulets dry, the rivers become but rivulets, wells dry up by the road sides, and the trees turn from green to yellow, and brown, and white, and ultimately lose all their leaves, as they do in the keenest winds of our northern blasts and snows. No contrast can possibly be more astonishing. A month or two back you were eating ices in your tent and dressed in warm woollen clothing, or sitting over a good cheer-

ful fire at night in your room, now you are panting for very breath, crying for water to quench a burning thirst, enveloping your head in wet towels, hunting for the least morsel of shade to creep into or cover the throbbing head, ill at ease with everything and with yourself, feverish, nervous, irritable, exhausted and refreshed by turns, dreaming of the day when the end of your trials will arrive, longing for cold, for a plunge into an ice-bath; in a word, living with vitality strung up to its highest pitch, breathing an air hotter than the current of the blood, thermometer 130°, twenty hours out of the twenty-four, and constantly looking upon a glaring blinding light, little less than that produced by phosphorus burnt in oxygen gas!

In such a climate, then, constantly enduring all the evils of the heat, our troops were daily engaged. It cannot be wondered at that scores fell ill from sheer exhaustion, others from nervous excitement, others from blood disorders and affections of the abdominal organs, others from *heat, asphyxia, coup-de-soleil*, and that some positively lost their reason! On retrospection it seems little less than positive miracle that any European should have gone through it without for ever shattering the goodly frame-work which holds his indomitable spirit. Such, however, is his constitution that there appears no cold too great, no heat too in-

tense for the peculiarly elastic elements of his race.

The rebels did all they could to destroy us, for a hot weather campaign to *them* is an awful thing. The way in which our troops endured their constant harassing in the heat must have amazed the sun-baked Hindu no little.

It is quite evident that the resources of this country, instead of being developed and improved, have been permitted to lie as they did a thousand years ago, and decay ; that such of the native arts and manufactures as used to raise for India a name and wonder all over the western world are nearly extinguished in the present day ; once great and renowned cities are mere heaps of ruins—dens for hyenas and jackals ! its colleges are no more—the wise men of the East live only in fable and histories of the past ; its temples and wondrous caves of Adjuntah, Ellora, and other places are crumbling fast to dust, and by-and-bye there will scarcely be a trace of them left ; its tanks and caravanserais are going or gone to rapid ruin ; its canals for irrigation are filled up and forgotten ; whole districts have been deserted by their inhabitants, and the jungle and wild beasts have succeeded them, and deadly malaria closed them. Where native princes once dwelt, and native opulence and prosperity reigned around them for miles, there are

ruined palaces, beautiful in their decay—deserted or fast shrinking towns, comparative poverty, roads overgrown with scrub and jungle, and very often total desolation and ruin, in the midst of natural wealth,—a plague spot on the cheek of beauty ; ruin, ruin, poverty, and natural wealth everywhere, as though a leper had touched the land, and it were hastening to decay. A question constantly asked of oneself is—“ Whence arises all this ? ” and the conclusion one arrives at is, that *something sinfully wrong must have caused such a terrible result, and that something equally bad continues to perpetuate so great a calamity !* Whether this ruin has been the natural result of a vicious feudalism, or misgovernment on our parts of territories and their cities, absorbed by British power, is for others to decide.

No one, who has eyes and ears to use, can doubt for a moment that we have almost totally neglected the resources of such a mighty country, while we have introduced the trash of our manufacturing towns into every cranny of the land.

It appears as though we had endeavoured to destroy every inherent useful production of an eastern nation for the introduction of western merchandise. And what *must* be the end of such short-sightedness if such an erroneous line of policy be pursued ?

It matters little to us now how this people were ruled by their own princes; we have taken upon ourselves the onerous charge, and it is our duty not only to push forward British goods among them, but also to save from destruction their ancient arts and sciences, and to develope them to the fullest extent, and to resuscitate their deadened energies to what they must have been under the enlightened rule of a prince like Aurungzebe.

When one looks upon their ruined temples and works of statuary—some of which will not blush by comparison with those of Greece—one almost mourns to see what degenerative time will work. Everything Grecian is, of course, classic,—their temples, their statuary, their poetic myths, and obscene tales of the loves of gods, goddesses, and men; their bared legs and arms and breasts; their seamless robe; their very gods' names have become mere household words with us,—we swear by them. Well, we are near neighbours, and so, perhaps, it is as well to tutor the minds of our youth with a little Homeric heathenism as well as Christianity. Now, these semi-nude, belligerent, shameless philosophers, poets, dancers, statesmen, and peasantry, appear to me to have had almost everything in common with the Hindu of to-day; the latter has a little more sun, but he has the seamless robe; he girds his loins for his journey, he wears his jewelled

sandal, he bares his leg; he treats his better-half the same,—she is sprinkled with jewels, bares her body to a fabulous extent, is his household slave, dances to the pipe and tabour, and chinks the castanet, while she evolves in all the grace of Grecian “graces,” to the songs of war, and love, and sorrow about defunct deities, heroes, faërics, angels, and princes! Yet this is not classic—it is *barbarous*, because, perhaps, it *exists*.

We have done a good deal in India; we have made a few good bridges over a few rivers; we have built travellers’ bungalows for officers of the army along our trunk roads; we have built large standing camps very frequently in most uninhabitable localities, and have deserted them, when the church-yards were filled, or the whim of a governor thought fit; we have splendid Government offices, and a few good modern forts in positions in which Europeans drop down, sometimes lifeless—struck by the sun, while on guard duty under ample shade; we have large permanent hospitals with none of the modern improvements of English hospitals; we have dammed mighty rivers, irrigated thousands of square acres, filled the natives’ purses, spent tens of thousands of rupees in trying to navigate rivers in whose bosoms millions of tons of sand constantly collect, as constantly to form impassable barriers; we have, indeed, girded the

land with iron-wire for our telegraphs—which all Europeans appreciate, and natives consider the *devil*; we have extended our territory east, west, north, and south—are truly very mighty—and are very poor instead of being rich; we have well saturated the thirsty soil with British blood in many glorious battles, and doubtless shall do so again; we have tried to do good through many scorching years of trial—we have not been appreciated—our western habits and customs *will* not accord with those of the Hindu—and we have had wholesale mutiny and butchery to crown our efforts.

Other notes, which I feel would only run out my narrative to a tedious length, I must omit, and suffice myself by concluding with a description of a *dâk*, as a mode of travelling totally different to that by which one dashes from the north-west provinces along that splendid Grand Trunk Road to the City of Palaces.

Most people travel to and from the north-west provinces by what is called “horse *dâk*.” This kind of *dâking* is all very well, but as every part of India is not blessed with a Grand Trunk Road, and as *dâk*-gharies are not to be had for love or money elsewhere, it may not be uninteresting to recount in what manner an officer is enabled to prosecute his journeys.

Save the opportunities he may have of going by sea from port to port, he has generally to travel hundreds of miles at a stretch by a palki-dâk.

When one is comfortably located in a station, and expects to remain some time, perhaps, he suddenly sees his name in the Gazette, ordering him to march forthwith to join a corps proceeding on foreign service. This is very annoying, but he must go, so he packs up his kit, sells off what would be a trouble to him on his march, always at a loss ; procures bullock carts for his necessaries at an awfully high rate of charge, and prepares to march, a solitary traveller on horseback, or to dâk it. If he dâks it by palki, he has to inform the magistrate of the station of his intention, who writes off to the authorities of the various stages to have bearers posted in readiness when he shall have arrived at each bungalow *en route*. The day arrives for his departure ; he packs his tea-kettle, pots, &c. upon his palki, stows away heaps of necessaries inside, and arranges his bed and pillows ; he then packs his clothes in one "cavady" box, his boiled chicken and tongue, sardines, bread and beer in another, and in the intensest misery feels himself ready to start to some unknown region, and ultimately for foreign service. His "cavady" boxes are strung from a bamboo, and hoisted upon the shoulder of a coolie ; his bearers are ready, and

taking his weight to an ounce as they swarm round him ready to tear him away, and at last, all being in readiness, he stoops and backs steadily through the little doorway of his palki, descends gingerly a few inches, draws in his head and shoulders, and then with a sigh flings in his legs. There's a groan outside, and he feels himself hoisted upon the shoulders of six men. A shout ! and off they go at a quick jog-trot, six other men running by his side, and a seventh with a flambeau and leathern oil-bottle.

Well, he is off, and gives himself up to the gentle care of fourteen natives, who speak a strange tongue, and look at him as a living El-Dorado.

By-and-bye the shades of night fall, the palki stops, he looks out, and finds his bearers chattering about oil. He purchases oil, his torch is lighted, and off they go again. By-and-bye it is nine o'clock, he looks again out of his palki, this time he finds himself well off the high road meandering in a swamp. First the bearers are up to their knees in mud, then in water, now splashing through a rice-field, then galloping along a bit of hard earth for fifty yards ; slow again, the fellows are now *finling* a way. All is darkness around save the glare of the torch immediately preceding. This is a time for calm reflection ! A sudden flash from the darkness above reveals his utter loneliness. Rumble, rumble

from the dark clouds ; onward he goes, a pitiable wanderer. Suddenly his first stage is over, he pays his bearers, gives them an *inam* (present), buys fresh oil, fees the Government servant (*this is always done*), and starts afresh. He is luckier this time, the road is good, the sky clear and bright with planetary beauty ; ten thousand shrill, chirruping crickets, bull-frogs croaking like croupy dogs, "Serve you right, serve you right," and fire-flies flitting past him, perhaps, make amends for his loneliness. Morning comes apace, and oh ! what a sunrise ! No wonder that the watchful shepherd of the East bows in worship to the radiant god of light. Earth lifts up her face to his smile, and luxuriates in the dewy softness of the hour ; woods echo with the wild dove's song, and an universal chorus of joyful sounds welcome the coming day.

And again the palki stops, this time at one of the Indian wayside hotels—the "travellers' bungalow." One might fancy a travellers' bungalow a nice comfortable kind of country inn, wherein all the necessaries of life may be procured, but it is nothing of the kind. Why do we pack up chicken and tongue, sardines, and the tea-kettle ? No, here he is in a barn, and the printed rules relating to this said barn hang upon the wall, showing who may lodge therein, and who may not.

He carries his own larder, and in the said bun-

galow *may* get a table whereon to spread his viands.

When he has refreshed his external man with a bath, and his internal economy with what he hath, he makes friends with Morpheus, and refreshes his soul till the meridian heat is past ; then he repacks his provender and sallies forth for another midnight race across country. Having run two days, he, perhaps, nears a large village in the evening just as it is beginning to rain. He has the prospect of a delicious run before him. The oil-man supplies the oil, he buys a little milk, and waits a short time to stretch his legs, and breathe in the perpendicular position.

It rains very hard, a distant rumble is heard, the bearers look at the sky, and the peon tells him he had better be off. This looks ominous, but he buckles to, lights a cheroot, and secretes himself in his palki. It grows dark, the torch-bearer makes a blaze, the bearers raise him upon their shoulders, and he is off into the jungles. Soon he finds himself in the midst of dense forest-land dark as Erebus ; the clouds open and vicious forks of lightning dance above and around him, as though they only waited for an opportunity to pierce him with a vivid prong, and carry his soul into ghost-land ; a loud wind rushes past him, it smells of earth, and puts out the torch, and down comes the heavy merciless

rain ! The bearers stop and place him under a tree, and crouch, and fold themselves up into almost nothing.

Howl, rush, whine goes the wind, and the storm flies past, and onward he goes again. Suddenly they slacken their pace ; he asks wherefore, and is told a little river must be crossed. The bearers take off their clothes, and in they bear him ; but it runs very fast and deepens, nay, he thinks it must run through his palki, and wash him out, but at this instant he feels himself raised in society, looks out, and finds himself above the heads of the bearers, who are now under him and up to their breasts in water. Quietly, steady, the river is forded, and again he sinks to the pole, and is off at a quick trot. At length he takes a nap ; fifteen sweet minutes of still forgetfulness have scarcely fled, when he finds a couple of black faces peering down upon him, and these tell him that there is another *very big river to cross !* Very well, it must be crossed ; “ Can’t do it, sahib,” is the reply. He gets out of his palki to reconnoitre, but this time finds it really no joke. Pitch dark all around, and a mighty rapid before him, with its soft muddy banks quietly dropping in and quickly widening the stream. To see to the opposite side is impossible. Here he is, in the midst of Indian luxury ! some two hundred miles from his destination, and he knows not how nigh unto death.

Enveloped in darkness*, on the bank of a rapid river, in the hands of fourteen coolies, at the witching hour of night ! Half in and half out of his palki, quietly consoling himself with the knowledge that things might have been worse, while his bearers are eyeing him like cannibals and yelling like fiends, he hears a small voice from the opposite bank, and in time his torch-light reveals three fellows up to their chins in the midst of the rapid, pushing a bamboo raft across. Such a frail looking thing ! However, he supposes all to be right, withdraws into his box, is then placed upon the raft, and trusts in Providence.

The bearers all get into the water, some to push, some to pull, some to hold up the raft, and away he goes upon the stream, swelling, rushing, bubbling, and whirling around and beneath him, expecting every instant to see the coolies carried away, and his palki, raft and all, go swinging down the stream to destruction.

However, they know their work, and have a keen sense of the value of rupees, which he does not forget to scatter when across. Once again on terra firma, up he goes, and the bearers commence their songs as they rush through the long avenues of banyan trees to another bungalow. These songs are very funny. The leader starts with an inarticulate "hum," another says "ah !" a third "he," a

fourth "ho," and these quicker and quicker, till at length he hears something like an aspirated "up and down," by another "mind your eye;" then "de-de," in louder tenor, "heigha," "I'm going to 'Merica;" then "oh! Tommy," "oh! my God," "heigha," and a "*hee*" like a screech-owl. Then occasionally he fancies they are saying they've got a "hairy-baboo" inside, and "cocoa-nut—ha!" and "throw him out, there;" and these extraordinary exclamations continue to pour upon his ear, echoing through and through the dense foliage all the time till, with a rush and a "ha-ha," they deposit him at each bungalow. In his journey, perhaps he may meet with an engineer in the public works department, who has been two years in the jungle, and months without having seen an European face, who has had jungle fever thrice or four times, sundry strokes of the sun, and frequent attacks of dysentery. But his *dâk* is not yet over. Another set of bearers run him from point to point across a pathless swamp, now bearing him shoulder high through deep sedgy water, now ploughing their way through mud up to their knees, and having for their only guide the stars, till at last cloud on cloud collects, and they are again lost in mire at 1 A.M. Then they wander, and stop, and howl, and wander, and the bull frogs croak till the ear is deafened, and the fire flies swarm in myriads. At length, rosy morn

again points out the path, and they are off; and, oh! what sights of wild fowl! Tens of thousands of all kinds—pelican, stork, geese, duck, quail, teal, and snipe in clouds. By-and-bye he leaves the swamps, gains the road again, and perhaps finishes his run about mid-day, feverish, excited, pale, wretched, and worn-out, and by-and-bye to start on the longer journey of field service.

THE END.

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CLASSIFIED INDEX

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Bayden on Valuing Rents, &c.	6
" on Road Legislation	6
Caard's Prairie Farming	8
Cecil's Stud Farm	8
Hoskyns's Talpa	11
Loudon's Agriculture	14
Low's Elements of Agriculture	14
Morton on Landed Estates	17

Arts, Manufactures, and Architecture.

Brande's Dictionary of Science, &c.	6
" Organic Chemistry	6
Creay's Civil Engineering	8
Fairbairn's Information for Engineers	9
Gwilt's Encyclopedia of Architecture	10
Harford's Plates from M. Angelo	10
Humphreys's <i>Parables</i> Illuminated	12
Jameson's Sacred and Legendary Art	13
" Commonplace-Book	13
König's Pictorial Life of Luther	10
Loudon's Rural Architecture	14
Mac Dougall's Campaigns of Hannibal	16
" Theory of War	16
Moseley's Engineering	17
Plasse's Art of Perfumery	18
Richardson's Art of Horsemanship	19
Scoffern on Projectiles, &c.	20
Steam Engine, by the Artisan Club	6
Ure's Dictionary of Arts, &c.	23

Biography.

Arago's Lives of Scientific Men	5
Baillie's Memoir of Bute	6
Bralmont's Wellington	6
Bunsen's Hippolytus	7
Bunting's (Dr.) Life	7
Crosse's (Andrew) Memorials	8
Gleig's Essays	10
Green's Princesses of England	10
Harford's Life of Michael Angelo	10
Lardner's Cabinet Cyclopædia	13
Marshman's Life of Carey, Marshman, and Ward	15
Maunder's Biographical Treasury	16

Morris's Life of Becket	17
Mountain's (Col.) Memoirs	17
Perry's (Admiral) Memoirs	18
Russell's Memoirs of Moore	17
" (Dr.) Life of Mezzofanti	20
Schlummel-Penninck's (Mrs.) Life	20
Sonthey's Life of Wesley	21
Stephen's Ecclesiastical Biography	22
Strickland's Queens of England	22
Sydney Smith's Memoirs	21
Symonds's (Admiral) Memoirs	22
Taylor's Loyola	22
" Wesley	22
Uwins's Memoirs and Correspondence	23
Waterton's Autobiography and Essays	24

Books of General Utility.

Acton's Bread-Book	5
" Cookery-Book	5
Black's Treatise on Brewing	6
Cabinet Gazetteer	8
" Lawyer	7
Cost's Invalid's Own Book	9
Hints on Etiquette	11
Hudson's Executor's Guide	12
" on Making Wills	12
Kesteven's Domestic Medicine	13
Lardner's Cabinet Cyclopædia	13
Loudon's Lady's Country Companion	14
Maunder's Treasury of Knowledge	16
" Biographical Treasury	16
" Geographical Treasury	16
" Scientific Treasury	16
" Treasury of History	16
" Natural History	16
Plasse's Art of Perfumery	18
Pitt's How to Brew Good Beer	18
Pocket and the Stud	11
Pycroft's English Reading	19
Rich's Companion to Latin Dictionary	19
Richardson's Art of Horsemanship	19
Riddle's Latin Dictionaries	19
Roget's English Thesaurus	20
Rowton's Debater	20
Short Whist	21
Simpson's Handbook of Dining	21
Thomson's Interest Tables	22
Webster's Domestic Economy	24
Willth's Popular Tables	24
Wilmot's Blackstone	24

Botany and Gardening.

Hassall's British Freshwater Algae	1
Hooker's British Flora	11
" Guide to Kew Gardens	11
Lindley's Introduction to Botany	14
" Synopsis of the British Flora	14
" Theory of Horticulture	14
Loudon's Hortus Britannicus	14
" Amateur Gardener	14
" Trees and Shrubs	14
" Gardening	14
" Plants	14
Pereira's Materia Medica	18
Rivers's Rose Amateur's Guide	19
Watson's Cybele Britannica	24
Wilson's British Mosses	24

Chronology.

Brewer's Historical Atlas	6
Runsen's Ancient Egypt	7
Haydn's Beatons' Index	11
Jaquemart's Two Chronologies	13

Commerce and Mercantile Affairs.

Gilbart's Logic of Banking	10
" Treatise on Banking	10
Former's Young Master Mariner	14
M'Culloch's Commerce and Navigation	15
Thomson's Interest Tables	22
Tooke's History of Prices	22

Criticism, History, and Memoirs.

Brewer's Historical Atlas	6
Runsen's Ancient Egypt	7
" Hippolytus	7
Chapman's Gustavus Adolphus	8
Connolly's Sappens and Miners	8
Conybeare and Howson's St. Paul	8
Crowe's History of France	9
Fischer's Francis Bacon	9
Fraser's Letters during the Peninsular and Waterloo Campaigns	10
Gleig's Essays	10
Gurney's Historical Sketches	10
Hayward's Essays	11
Herschel's Essays and Addresses	11
Jeffrey's (Lord) Contributions	13
Kemble's Anglo-Saxons	13
Lardner's Cabinet Cyclopædia	13
Macaulay's Critical and Hist. Essays	14
" History of England	14
" Speeches	14
Mackintosh's Miscellaneous Works	15
" History of England	15
M'Culloch's Geographical Dictionary	15
Maunder's Treasury of History	16
Mervale's History of Rome	16
" Roman Republic	16
Millner's Church History	16
Moore's (Thomas) Memoirs, &c.	17
Mure's Greek Literature	17
Normanby's Year of Revolution	18
Perry's Franks	18
Porter's Knights of Malta	19
Raikie's Journal	19
Riddle's Latin Dictionaries	19
Regener's Essays from Edinb. Review	19
" (Sam.) Recollections	19
Rogee's English Thesaurus	20
SchimmelPenninck's Memoirs of Port Royal	20

SchimmelPenninck's Principles of Beauty	20
Schmitz's History of Greece	21
Sonthey's Doctor	21
Stephen's Ecclesiastical Biography	22
" Lectures on French History	21
Sydney Smith's Work	21
" Lectures	21
" Memoirs	21
Taylor's Loyola	22
" Wesley	22
Thirlwall's History of Greece	22
Turner's Anglo-Saxons	23
Uwins's Memoirs and Letters	23
Vehse's Austrian Court	23
Wade's England's Greatness	23
Young's Christ of History	24

Geography and Atlases.

Brewer's Historical Atlas	6
Butler's Geography and Atlases	7
Cabinet Gazetteer	8
Johnston's General Gazetteer	13
M'Culloch's Geographical Dictionary	15
Maunder's Treasury of Geography	16
Murray's Encyclopædia of Geography	17
Sharp's British Gazetteer	21

Juvenile Books.

Amy Herbert	20
Cleve Hall	20
Earl's Daughter (The)	20
Experience of Life	20
Gertrude	20
Howitt's Boy's Country Book	12
" (Mary) Children's Year	12
Ivora	20
Katharine Ashton	20
Janeton Parsonage	20
Margaret Percival	20
Piesse's Chymical, Natural, and Physical Magic	18
Pycroft's Collegian's Guide	19

Medicine, Surgery, &c.

Brodie's Psychological Inquiries	6
Bull's Hints to Mothers	7
" Management of Children	7
" Work on Blindness	7
Cooland's Dictionary of Medicine	8
Cut's Invalid's Own Book	9
Holland's Mental Physiology	11
" Medical Notes and Reflections	11
Kesteven's Domestic Medicine	13
Pereira's Materia Medica	18
Richardson's Cold-water Cure	19
Spencer's Principles of Psychology	21
Todd's Cyclopædia of Anatomy and Physiology	22

Miscellaneous Literature.

Bacon's (Lord) Works	5
Defence of <i>Eclipse of Faith</i>	9
De Fonblanque on Army Administration	9
Eclipse of Faith	9
Greathead's Letters from Delhi	10
Grayson's Select Correspondence	10
Gurney's Evening Recreations	10
Hassall's Adulterations Detected, &c.	11
Haydn's Book of Dignities	11
Holland's Mental Physiology	11

Hooker's New Guide	11
Howitt's Rural Life of England	12
" Visits to Remarkable Places	12
Jamieson's Commonplace-Book	13
Jeffrey's (Lord) Essays	13
Last of the Old Squires	18
Letters of a Betrothed	13
Macauley's Critical and Hist. Essays	14
" Speeches	14
Mackintosh's Miscellaneous Works	15
Martineau's Miscellanea	15
Pyroft's English Reading	19
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Riddle's Latin Dictionaries	19
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